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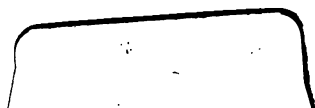
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The Royal School Series.

STORIES FROM
ENGLISH HISTORY
SIMPLY TOLD.

A READING BOOK FOR STANDARD III.



London:
T. NELSON AND SONS, PATERNOSTER ROW.
EDINBURGH; AND NEW YORK.

1882.

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P R E F A C E.

THE New Code requires that in each Standard above the Second, three Reading Books shall be used, and that one of these shall relate to English History. The Code further specifies that for Standard III. the history book used shall be a book of "Stories from English History."

The present book has been specially prepared to answer that purpose. It is a book of stories, not a detailed history; but it mentions most of the leading events in the history of England, and the view it presents of the progress of England is complete in itself. The stories are written in a lively and attractive style, and in very simple language. Great prominence is given in them to personal adventure.

As this book will be used as a Reading Book, from which dictation exercises may be given by the Inspector, it has been treated in all respects like an ordinary Reading Book, especially in being furnished with Spelling-lists and Explanatory Notes. Every difficult word is divided into syllables and accentuated in the Word-lists, and every difficult allusion is explained in the Notes.

The Illustrations have been specially prepared for this book, and are meant to tell to the eye the same story that is told in simple words in the text.

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MAP OF ENGLAND.

Containing all the names of places mentioned in this book.

This map contains every place mentioned in the stories, and a few others to serve as leading points and to indicate positions. This accounts for the combination of modern and ancient names in the same map.

The complete squares on the map are squares of 100 English miles. They will be found useful in showing distances, and as a frame-work for copying the map.

STORIES FROM ENGLISH HISTORY.

1. LONG, LONG AGO.

1. Far away in the South Sea Islands,¹ and in other parts of the world, there live at the present day savages, or wild men.

2. They stain their bodies, and paint on them strange figures. They wear very little clothing. They live in rude huts or in caves.

3. They hunt and fish ; but they do not till the ground. They are fond of war ; but they cannot read or write ; and they worship idols.²

4. You may think it very strange, but it is true, that the people of this country were once in nearly as wild a state as the islanders of the South Seas, or as the savage tribes of North America called Red Indians. But that, of course, was a long time ago. How long, let me tell you.

5. You know, when we say that this is the year 1882, we mean that it is eighteen hundred and eighty-two years since the birth of

Christ. Well, we must go back to that far-off time, and even before it, to find the time when the people of the British Islands were

savages.



SOUTH SEA ISLANDER OF THE PRESENT DAY.

6. A people called the Romans was then the ruling people of the world. The Romans lived in Italy. Their capital was the city of Rome. There to this day the ruins may be seen of great temples and palaces. Some of these were built by the Romans when our forefathers³ were wandering as savages in their island home.

7. Fifty-five years before the birth of Christ, a great Roman general called Julius Cæsar came to Britain with a fleet of ships. He landed on the coast of Kent, and with his army of Roman *soldiers he beat the Britons in battle.*

8. Cæsar was not only a great soldier, he was also a great writer of books ; and, indeed, nearly all that is known about the early Britons has been learned from his writings.

9. He tells us that they painted figures on their bodies—just like the South Sea islanders of to-day. They clothed themselves with the skins of animals.



ANCIENT BRITON IN CORACLE.

10. They dwelt in round huts made of reeds or of wood ; and their towns were clusters of these huts⁴ in the midst of the deep forests which then covered the country.

11. For boats they had “coracles,” or basket-boats, made of twisted twigs and covered with

the skins of animals. In these they went out on their rivers to catch fish.

12. They killed the fish with spears made of wood, or they caught them with hooks made of bone. Many of their boats were so light that a man could carry one home on his back.

13. All the Britons were not equally savage. In Cæsar's time some of them—chiefly those in the south—had begun to improve. The coming of the Romans made a great change.

14. They were masters of Britain for nearly four hundred years. They made good roads through the island; and among other useful things, they taught the people how to build houses of brick and stone.

sav'a-ges	In'di-ans	peo'ple	pal'a-ces	for'ests
fig'ures	A-mer'i-ca	Ro'mans	Ju'li-us	cor'a-cles
clôth'ing	eight'een	cap'i-tal	Cæ'sar	Brit'on
isl-and-ers	hun'dred	tem'ples	sol'diers	Brit'ain

¹ South Sea Islands, islands in the South Pacific Ocean.

² Worship idols, bow down to gods made of wood, stone, or metal.

³ Our forefathers, those who lived

before us, especially those of the same family, or of the same race.

⁴ Clusters of these huts, numbers of huts placed close together. In the same way we speak of a cluster of grapes.

2. THE NOBLE CAPTIVE.

1. When a Roman general¹ went back to Rome after winning great battles, he was sometimes honoured with what was called a "*Triumph*."

2. A Roman triumph was a grand display. The whole city made holiday. The general and his soldiers marched through the crowded streets. The spoils taken in war were carried in the victor's train, and the captives² were led in chains before his chariot.³

3. In one of these old Roman triumphs, British captives might one day have been seen led in chains through the streets of Rome. Chief among them was a noble Briton named Caractacus.⁴

4. He had stood out against the Romans longer than any other British leader; but after fighting against them bravely for some years, he had at length been betrayed⁵ into their hands by a false friend, and had been sent to Rome in chains.

5. When the day of the triumph came, there was great stir in the city. The emperor in his chariot passed along crowded streets, amid the shouts of his people.

6. Caractacus, though in chains, looked more like a victor than a captive. As he gazed on the grand marble palaces and temples of the great city, he could not help wondering how people like the Romans could have envied him his humble cottage in his native land.

7. Later in the day he was called before the emperor, who was seated on his throne. Carac-

tacus was there to hear his fate:⁶ but he stood erect; and no proud Roman, in the crowd around the throne, looked more fearless than he.



CARACTACUS BEFORE THE ROMAN EMPEROR.

8. "Briton," said the emperor in surprise, "knowest thou not that thou must die? All who bear arms against Rome, as thou hast done, are doomed to death."

9. "Torn from my home and robbed of freedom," replied Caractacus, "I have nothing now to live for: nor do I fear death more here *than on the field of battle.*"

10. Struck with his noble bearing, the emperor made up his mind to grant him his life. "Thou shalt not die," he said. "Thou art free. Rome is able to forgive a brave enemy."

11. The Roman soldiers at once struck off his chains, and from that day Caractacus was free. Not being allowed to return to Britain, he remained in Rome; and he became a fast friend of the Roman emperor.

win'ning	sol'diers	be-trayed'	hum'ble	free'dom
hon'oured	cap'tives	em'per-or	cot'tage	al-owed'
tri'umph	char'i-ot	pal'a-ces	sur-prise'	re-mained'
hol'i-day	figh'ting	won'der-ing	know'est	friend

¹ **General**, the head of an army.

² **Captives**, prisoners taken in war. The word means *taken* or *caught*.

³ **Chariot**, a kind of coach; a war-car.

⁴ **Carac'tacus**. That was the name

given him by the Romans. His British name was Car'adoc.

⁵ **Betrayed**, given up falsely.

⁶ **To hear his fate**, to learn what was to be done with him—how he was to be punished.

3. A BRAVE BRITISH QUEEN.

[The Roman Emperor Nero was a cruel monster. He put to death his mother and his wife; and he set fire to Rome, and is said to have sung songs while he watched it burning. In his time the Britons were very harshly treated by the Romans, as the following story shows.]

1. In the time of the cruel Emperor Nero, there lived a British queen named Boadicea. She was queen of a tribe in the east of Britain—in what is now the county of Norfolk.

2. Her husband had died a short time before,

leaving the one half of his wealth to the Romans, and the other half to his widow and his daughters. But the Romans seized the whole; and when Boadicea went to claim her share, they not only refused to give it,¹ but cruelly scourged her, in Roman fashion, with rods.

3. Boadicea, roused by her cruel wrongs, gathered her people together to the number of one hundred thousand, and called on them to drive the Romans out of the land. Standing in her war-chariot, with her daughters by her side, she spoke in burning words to her people.

4. "Britons," she said, "freedom is better than slavery. You were happy before the Romans came: how wretched are you now! For myself, I shall not rest till I have avenged the wrongs² they have put on me.

5. "Why need we fear them?" she continued. "We are more than they. We are as brave as they. We are fighting for our country and our homes: better to die than to be the slaves of the Romans."

6. The people, roused by her words, asked to be led against the enemy. Boadicea put herself at their head. They marched on the Roman towns, several of which, including *London*, they robbed and burned. Seventy

thousand Romans were said to have perished at this time.

7. The Roman governor was absent in the



north; but on his return he gathered a large army and marched against Boadicea.

8. A great battle took place. The Romans, with their backs to the sea, were hemmed in by the Britons; but they held their ground

They formed themselves into a solid body, against which the Britons dashed in vain, like waves against a firm rock. After a long and brave fight, the Britons—men and women together—fled in wildest disorder from the field.

9. When Boadicea saw her army broken and scattered, and her hopes ruined, she also fled. Taking shelter in a lonely hut, she did what heathens thought it brave to do—she killed herself, that she might not fall into the hands of her enemies.

hus'band	cru'el-ly	slāv'er-y	in-clūd'ing	scat'tered
seized	scourged	wretch'ed	gov'er-nor	ru'ined
daugh'ters	fash'ion	con-tin'ued	hemmed	hea'thens
re-fused'	gath'ered	sev'er-al	dis-or'der	en'e-mies

¹ Refused to give it, said that they would not give it. | ² Avenged the wrongs, paid back the injuries.

4. THE COMING OF THE ENGLISH.

1. At last the Romans were forced to leave Britain, after having been there for four hundred years. Rome itself was attacked¹ by strong foes, and every Roman soldier was needed at home to defend the capital.²

2. The Britons were very helpless after the Romans left them. The people of the north—the Scots, as they were called—were too *strong for them*. They often swarmed south-

ward in great bands, and fought with the Britons, generally with success.

3. This went on until the Britons asked the help of the sea-rovers, who at that time used often to sail across the North Sea and land on their shores. These men bore the common name of Angles: they came from the south of Denmark.³

4. One of the leaders of the Angles was called Hengest. With his help the British king⁴ was able to beat the Scots. As a reward for his aid, the king gave Hengest the Isle of Thanet,⁵ on the east of Kent, to be his own land.

5. Hengest had a beautiful daughter named Rowena,⁶ who came to live with him after he had settled in Thanet. At a great feast, she knelt before the British king and offered him a golden goblet of wine, saying, "Great king, I wish you health."

6. The king was so much struck with her beauty and pleased with her manner, that he made her his wife. So Rowena, the daughter of the leader of the Angle sea-rovers, was the first English queen that ruled in the island of Britain.

7. After his marriage with Rowena, the king favoured the Angles or English more and more, and gave them more land every

year. Once the Britons and the English quarrelled, and the English had the worst of it; but they made peace, and promised to be friends for ever.

8. In honour of this peace a great feast was held, at which three hundred of the chief Britons met with three hundred of the chief Englishmen.

9. In the midst of the feasting, Hengest suddenly called out to his men, in their own tongue,—“Take your knives!” Every Englishman then drew a dagger from under his cloak and plunged it in the heart of the Briton that sat by his side.

10. The king alone was spared, for Rowena’s sake; but he had no longer any real power. Hengest and his followers made themselves masters of the whole of Kent, which thus became the first English kingdom in Britain.

11. Other bands of Englishmen crossed the North Sea and settled on the east and south coasts of the island. Bit by bit they overcame the Britons, and soon the whole of South Britain was in their hands.

de-fend’	Añ-gles	beau-ti-ful	quar-relled	sud-den-ly
swarmed	Den-mark	gob-let	prom-ised	tongue
gen-er-al-ly	Heñ-gest	mar-riage	hon-our	fol-low-ers
suc-cess’	re-ward’	fa-voured	chief	isl-and

¹ Was attacked, was set upon; had war made on her.

² The capital, the chief city. Rome was the chief city of the Roman Empire. There the emperor dwelt.

³ Denmark, the land of the Danes, between the North Sea and the Baltic.

⁴ The British king. His name was Vortigern.

⁵ Isle of Thanet, the north-eastern point of the county of Kent. It is made an island by the river Stour and one of its arms, up both of which ships used to be able to sail; but they are now so much filled with sand that ships cannot sail on them. Indeed, Thanet is now hardly an island at all.

⁶ Rowena. Pronounce *Ro-wee'-na*.

5. ENGLISH SLAVE-BOYS AT ROME.

[In those olden times, the servants in Roman houses were slaves, who were bought and sold like cattle, though they were generally treated kindly by their masters. Though the Romans had become Christians, they still held to some of their heathen ways; and slavery was one of these. There was a slave-market in Rome, to which the citizens went when they wanted servants. The slaves were brought from different parts of the world by slave-dealers, who often bought them from their heartless parents.]

1. One day a monk¹ called Gregory, when wandering through the slave-market at Rome, was struck with the fine looks of a group of boys. With their fair skin, light hair, and blue eyes, they were very unlike the boys of Italy. Gregory was touched also by the beauty of their form, and their guileless manner.

2. He said to their master, "Whence have these boys come? Who and what are they?" The answer was, "They are Angles from the island of Britain; but they are not Christians." Moved with pity, Gregory said, "If they were but Christians they would be, not Angles, but Angels."

3. Gregory never forgot these English boys.

He very soon made ready, and started for England as a missionary² to the heathen there;



GREGORY AND THE ENGLISH SLAVE-BOYS.

but his friends feared to trust him among such rude and savage people, and got the Pope³ to order him to return home.

4. A few years passed away, and Gregory himself became Pope, and he very soon thought him of the English boys. He sought out a trusty monk called Augustine,⁴ and sent him to preach the gospel in England.

5. *Augustine* came, with forty monks, to

Ethelbert, King of Kent, and asked leave to preach to his people. Happily his queen, Bertha,⁵ a daughter of the King of Paris, was already a Christian, and she got the king to receive the strangers.

6. This he did, seated on a chair of state in the open air, with his queen Bertha by his side. The monks, with Augustine at their head, slowly marched into his presence singing hymns, and carrying crosses aloft. Touched with the music and struck with the pious manner of the men, Ethelbert bade them welcome, and allowed them to teach his people.

7. Before long, the king himself was baptized,⁶ and the Christian religion became the religion of his kingdom. From Kent, Christianity soon spread over all England.

8. This, however, was not the first time that the Christian religion had been preached in the British Islands. Some years before Augustine came to South Britain, a monk called Columba had crossed from Ireland to the lonely island of Iona, on the west coast of Scotland.

9. From Iona the gospel message was carried by Columba and his monks over the south of Scotland and the north of England. But Augustine was the first missionary to the English of the South; so we may say that

England owed its first knowledge of the gospel to the slave-boys in the Roman market.

Greg-o-ry Chris-ti-ans be-thought' hymns Au-gus'tine
wan-der-ing mis-sion-a-ry sought wel'-come Co-lum'-ba
touched hea'-thens re-ceive' al-lowed' I-o'-na
an'-swer peo'-ple pres'-ence bap-tized' knowl'-edge

¹ **A monk**, a man who lives apart from the world in a religious house called a *monastery*. A woman who does this is a nun. Nuns live in a *nunnery*.

² **A missionary**, one sent to preach the gospel to the heathen.

³ **Pope**, the head of the Roman Catholic Church. The word means *father*.

⁴ **Augustine**. He was the first Archbishop of Canterbury. He died eight years after he came to Kent.

⁵ **Bertha**. A Christian bishop had been allowed to come with her to Kent at the time of her marriage with Ethelbert.

⁶ **Baptized**, christened; received into the Christian Church.

6. THE MARTYR KING.

1. At first there were several small English kingdoms in Britain; but about four hundred years after the first coming of the English, one king—Egbert of Wessex—made himself lord over all the other kings.

2. Then the Danes or Norsemen¹ began to trouble the English. They belonged to the same race as the English, but they were still heathens. At first they settled on the coasts; then they spread inland; and if they went away in the autumn, they were sure to come back in the spring.

3. After making themselves masters of a *great part* of the north of England, the Danes

defeated Edmund, King of East Anglia² (Norfolk and Suffolk), and took him prisoner. The Danish leader offered to let Edmund keep his throne, if he would agree to give up the Christian faith, and to rule under his orders.

4. When Edmund heard what he was asked to do, he was very angry. "You ask me," he said to the Danish leader, "to betray my country, and to break my vows to God. As for my country, I shall rule it either for myself or not at all. As for my religion, its roots are in my heart, and I would rather die than give it up."

5. "Then die you shall!" was the cruel answer of the Dane; "and that in a way that will teach Englishmen the danger of thwarting the Danes."—"It may teach Danes," Edmund calmly replied, "that an Englishman can be true to his country and his God."

6. Calling to some of his guards, the Dane said, "Lead him to yonder tree, and bind him to its trunk." The king, stripped almost naked, was then bound with cords to a tree. Twenty Danish archers were placed in line at the distance of thirty paces from the king.

7. When the arrows were set, and every bow was bent, the Dane said, "Now will you yield?"—"Never," Edmund replied, "while God gives me strength to say No."—"Then

let the first man shoot." And he shot his arrow, and it pierced Edmund's left arm.

8. "There is yet time," said the Dane; "will you yield?"—"No," said the king.—"Then let the others shoot in turn," was the stern order.

9. One arrow pierced Edmund's right eye, and another quivered in his heart; and then his body hung in the cords, and the Danes knew that the brave king was dead.

10. For his firm faith, Edmund was called a saint by his countrymen. Over his tomb a grand monastery was built; and the town which grew up around it was called St. Edmundsbury—that is, St. Edmund's borough, or town. It is now called Bury St. Edmunds.

11. The Danes then made East Anglia a Danish kingdom—the first Danish kingdom in England. They became more and more troublesome after this success, and the kings of Wessex had hard work in withstanding them. Not till Alfred the Great came to the throne was their progress checked.

Norse-men	de-feat-ed	re-lig-ion	pierced
troub-le	Ed-mund	thwart-ing	quiv-ered
set-tled	pris-on-er	calm-ly	mon-as-ter-y
au-tumn	an-gry	guards	borough

¹ *Norsemen*, men who came from Norway, or Norse-land.

² *East Anglia*, the land of the East Angles. Norfolk means the north folk or people; and Suffolk, the south folk.

7. KING ALFRED'S YOUTH.

1. Three of Alfred's brothers had reigned, one after another, before him. His third brother had been hard pressed by the Danes, and had fought nine battles with them in one year! In the last of these battles he was wounded, so that he died; and Alfred got the throne when he was only twenty-two years old.

2. Alfred found his kingdom very much weakened by the struggle with the Danes; but he had already shown himself to be brave and wise, and his people trusted in him.

3. Though the fourth son, his father had looked on him at a very early age as the future king. When the old king had gone to Rome to see the Pope, he had taken Alfred with him, though he was then little more than four years old.

4. He had made his little son kneel before the Pope, and the Pope had laid his hands on the boy and had given him his blessing as King of Wessex.

5. In those days there were very few books, and very few persons could read; but it was common for men called minstrels, or harpers, to go from house to house singing songs and telling stories of the brave English.

6. Alfred, who was a very clever boy, had

been fonder of listening to these minstrels than of riding, and playing at ball, and shooting with the bow, like his brothers. So closely did he listen to them, that he had learned by heart a great many Old English poems long before he could read.

7. The books that they had in those days were not printed. They were written with the hand; and the sides of the pages were made gay with pretty pictures and coloured letters. Copying these books was the great work of the monks.

8. Alfred's mother had one of these books, and one day she called her sons around her and showed it to them. The others liked the pretty pictures; but Alfred was eager to know what the book was about.

9. The queen then said: "Now, boys, I will give this book to whichever of you shall first learn to read it; and it shall be his very own."

10. Alfred, though the youngest—he was but eight or nine—was the only one that tried to learn to read the book. He went to an old monk and asked him to be his teacher.

11. In a very few weeks, Alfred went to his mother and read to her page after page of the book! The queen with great joy gave *him the book*, saying, "I hope my little Alf-

red will not only read the words, but will store them in his heart; for they are taken from the word of God."



ALFRED READING TO HIS MOTHER.

12. Alfred never forgot his mother's words; and when he became king, he built churches and schools, and tried to make his people good and happy.

reigned	king-dom	kneel	clev'er	pic'tures
bat'tles	weak-ened	bless-ing	lis'ten-ing	which-ev'er
wound-ed	strug-gle	Wes-sex	rid'ing	youn'gest
Alf-red	al-read'y	com-mon	col-oured	teach'er
twen'ty	fu'ture	min'strels	cop'y-ing	church'es

8. KING ALFRED AND THE CAKES.

1. In the seventh year of his reign Alfred was forced to flee, and to go into hiding. Disguised¹ as a simple woodman,² he went all alone into the marsh country of Somerset.³ There he was beyond reach of the Danes; and, besides, he knew that an old servant of his was a swine-herd in those parts.

2. Alfred came upon his old friend while he was herding his swine on a meadow not far from his cottage. At first the swine-herd did not know who the traveller was, so jaded were his looks and so rough his clothes. When Alfred made himself known to the man, he fell on his knees and kissed the king's hand.

3. Alfred asked him if he might sleep in his cottage for a few nights, as he wished to rest a while in that quiet spot. "Welcome you are to all that I have," said the man; "only it makes my heart sore to think that my king should be forced to seek shelter in so poor a dwelling."

4. "No dwelling is poor which holds true

hearts like yours," replied the king. "But," he added, "as your wife does not know me, it is well that I should remain unknown. You had better tell her that I am a wanderer in search of work, and that you have hired me to cut wood and to help you to watch your herds. My food and lodging are all the pay I shall look for."

5. To this the man agreed; and Alfred made himself useful in the house. But the goodwife, after some days, said that he was too much of a dreamer for her. "He often does not hear me when I speak to him," she said to her husband; "and when he should be cutting his logs, he stands as if in a dream."

6. One day, as he sat by the cottage fire trimming a new bow he had made for himself, the woman told him to watch some cakes that were toasting on the hearth, while she went to fetch some water.

7. His mind was so full of other things, and his hands were so busy with his knife and his bow, that he forgot about the cakes, and allowed them to burn till they were black!

8. When the woman came back, she smelled the burning cakes, and at once began to scold Alfred soundly for his carelessness. "Lazy loon," she said, "you forgot to turn the cakes; but I'll warrant⁴ you will eat them fast enough."

9. Alfred remained for some time in the swine-herd's cottage, and then he left. Great was the surprise of the woman when she found



ALFRED IN THE SWINE-HERD'S COTTAGE.

out some time afterwards that the man to whom she had spoken so rudely was none other than the great King Alfred !

10. By-and-by Alfred regained his throne. When he had put down the Danes, he turned his thoughts to the welfare of his people. He

made many wise laws. He built ships and towns. He opened schools; and he wrote books, and caused books to be written, in the English tongue.

11. He reigned thirty years, and was so good and so noble that he well deserves his title of ALFRED THE GREAT.

hid'ing	trav'el-ler	wan'der-er	care'less-ness
dis-guised'	jād'ed	lodg'ing	war'rant
Som'er-set	rough	trim'ming	e-nough'
be-yond'	qui'et	hearth	re-mained'
mead'ow	shel'ter	fetch	af'ter-wards

¹ Disguised, dressed so as to hide who he was. land, on the south shore of the Bristol Channel.

² Woodman, one who cuts down trees.

³ Somerset, in the west of Eng-
⁴ I'll warrant, I'll be bound; I am quite sure.

9. EDGAR THE PEACEFUL.

[The struggle with the Danes began again in the reign of Alfred's son, and went on for two or three reigns after his. At length there came to the throne a king in whose reign there was very little fighting. He was one of Alfred's great-grandsons. His name was Edgar, and he was called "Edgar the Peaceful." The whole island of Great Britain seems to have submitted to this king. In his charters he is called "King of the English and of all the nations round about," and "ruler and lord of the whole island of Albion."]

1. Once Edgar the Peaceful had a meeting at Chester¹ with eight kings and princes who were subject to him;² and they rowed his barge, or boat, up the river Dee, while he held the helm.

2. Now, though Edgar was so great a king,
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he was a very small man. One day, at Chester, when Kenneth the King of Scots was in a merry mood, he said to the other princes, "Is it not strange that we who are so big serve this king, who is smaller than any of us?" Edgar was not present when that was said; but some one told him the story.

3. The next day Edgar asked Kenneth to go aside with him to talk of a grave matter. Kenneth went with him, and when they came to a lonely place in a wood, Edgar said, "I am told, my lord, that you feel shame in serving under so small a man as I am. Now draw your sword, and let us see which of us is the stronger." At the same time Edgar drew his sword, and made ready to defend himself.

4. But Kenneth would not take his sword. "I dare not draw," he said, "against my lord and master, the King of all Britain." Then he told Edgar that he had only spoken in jest; and falling on his knees, he asked the king's pardon.

5. "Pardon," replied Edgar, "is easily granted. It were better it had not to be asked. It is not good for any man to be quick with his tongue and slow with his sword—least of all a king." But Edgar held out his hand, and raised Kenneth to his feet; and *they were good friends ever after.*

6. Edgar was a great friend of the monks, and he was very kind to them. He built monasteries for them all over England, and he gave them much land. That is perhaps why the monks, who wrote the chronicles³ or histories of his time, speak so much in his praise.

7. But Edgar must have been a good king; for he made good laws, he kept England at peace, and he ruled over the whole island—over English, Welsh, Danes, and Scots.

Ed'gar	helm	stroñ'ger	par'don	raised
peace'ful	Ken'neth	de-fend'	ea'si-ly	per-haps'
Ches'ter	pres'ent	sword	grant'ed	chron'i-cles
barge	serv'ing	jest	quick	his'tor-ies

¹ **Chester**, the chief town of Cheshire, south of Lancashire.

² **Were subject to him**, owned him as their lord.

³ **Chronicles**, records, written by the monks from day to day, of what happened in the monastery and in the country.

10. CANUTE AND HIS FLATTERERS.

[Edgar's son tried to get the Danes to go away by giving them money; but that only made them come back a year or two later and ask for more money. The king then made a plot to murder all the Danes in England. On a fixed day, thousands of them were cruelly put to death. To punish the English for this cruelty, the King of Denmark came with a great army; and the Danes conquered England, and three Danish kings, one after another, sat on the throne. The first of the Danish kings was called Canute', or Knut.]

1. King Canute was one of the greatest and wisest kings of those early times. He was

lord over all England, and he treated Danes and Englishmen alike.

2. He divided England into four great earldoms.¹ Over two of these he set Danish earls, and over the other two he set Englishmen; and he made all men obey the laws, and the country was at peace.

3. His nobles thought that no man had ever been so great as Canute. At least they told him so; and they tried to make him believe that he was lord not only of men, but also of the land and the sea!

4. When Canute heard these flattering words, he called his nobles to go with him to the seashore, and he had his chair placed on the beach. As the tide rolled in, he bade the waves retire.

5. "Fall back," he said, "O ye weak and foolish waves, at the voice of your lord and master." He then waited, as if he thought the waves would obey him.

6. When they still rolled on, and began to wet his feet, he turned to his flatterers² and said, "Vain is the power of the greatest earthly king. Only the Almighty can say to the ocean, 'Thus far, and no further, shalt thou go.'"

7. From that day forth, it is said, Canute *ceased to wear his crown*, in order to show his

nobles how truly humble he was. This great king ruled over Denmark and Norway as well as over England. At his death, his



CANUTE ON THE SEA-SHORE.

wide dominions³ were divided among his children. One was made king of England, another of Norway, and a third of Denmark.

Ca-nute'	Dān'-ish	beach	fur'ther
treat'-ed	o-bey'	re-tire'	ceased
Eñ'-glish-men	coun'try	wait'-ed	Nor'-way
di-vid'-ed	be-lieve'	Al-might'y	do-min'-ions
earl'-doms	flat'-ter-ing	o'-cean	chil'-dren

¹ **Earldom**, land or portion of country ruled by an earl; as kingdom is a country ruled by a king. ² **Flatterers**, persons who praise too much and falsely. ³ **Dominions**, lands, countries.

11. THE UNWILLING OATH.

[When the last of the Danish kings died, a king of the Old English line got the throne. He was called Edward the Confessor, because he was very pious. Edward had no children, and he wished his cousin William, Duke of Normandy, to succeed him. But Harold, the son of Godwin, a powerful English noble, wished to be king, and he had the support of the English Witan or Parliament. Once Harold was shipwrecked on the coast of France, and fell into the hands of Duke William. William resolved not to let Harold go till the latter had promised to help him to get the English crown.]

1. Harold was really a prisoner in Duke William's hands; but he longed to return to England. One day he pressed William to let him go.

2. "You long for England," said William; "then there is one way in which you may have your wish, and that shortly. You know King Edward hath named me his heir?"¹—"I knew it not," said Harold, "but I hear it now."

3. "Know, then, that it is true," replied William. "Now, you have wide lands and much power in England. Swear to uphold my claim to the throne, and you shall at once

be free.”—“I shall help you if the Witan² choose you to be king,” answered Harold.

4. “We look to you to lead the Witan,” was William’s reply; “and you are well able to do so. If Harold say ‘Yea,’ not many English knights will dare to say ‘Nay.’ Now, you know my wish, and you have heard my offer; what say you?”

5. Now Harold saw that he was in William’s power, and that, if he refused to do William’s bidding, he should have to remain a prisoner in Normandy³ at the risk of his life. So Harold said craftily, “If it be so that Edward has made you his heir, I shall give my voice in the Witan for what the king hath willed.”

6. Then William said, “That is well spoken, my noble friend. What you have said in friendship you will not object to swear to on this humble altar.” For, while talking, the two princes had walked from one hall to another, until at last they had reached Duke William’s private chapel.

7. At first Harold was startled by these words. He had not meant to bind himself by any strict promise.

8. He felt that it was unfair of William to try to get the better of him when he was a prisoner in his hands; and he said to himself

that a promise drawn from him now could not be binding on him when he became a free man.

9. Harold therefore said, "I am ready, Duke William, to swear to be your man." Then at William's call a priest came, and bade Harold lay his right hand on the cloth of crimson and gold that covered the altar.

10. So Harold laid his right hand on the cloth, and the priest bade him say, "I swear that, after the death of the King of England, I shall help Duke William of Normandy to get the English throne; by all that is holy I swear it."

11. Then the priest drew aside the cloth of crimson and gold, and showed Harold that he had not sworn on a common altar, but on a chest containing⁴ the bones of saints! When Harold saw the trick that had been played on him, he was very angry; but he hid his anger and went his way.

Har-old	choose	craf-ti-ly	talk-ing	prom-ise
pris-on-er	knights	heir	pri-vate	Nor-man-dy
pressed	re-fused'	al-tar	chap-el	crim-son
pow-er	bid-ding	friend-ship	start-led	con-tain-ing

¹ Named me his heir, named me to be king after him (Edward).

² The Wit'an, the Old English Parliament. The name means, the Wise Men; or, in full, the Meeting of the Wise Men.

³ Normandy, in the north-west of France. It took its name from the Norsemen who had settled there, but had in course of time become Frenchmen.

⁴ Containing, having in it.

12. THE COMING OF THE NORMANS.

[When Edward the Confessor died, the Witan chose Harold for king, and he was crowned as Harold II. William of Normandy then gathered a great army and many ships, and crossed over to England to take the crown by force.]

1. When Duke William landed at Pevensey, on the coast of Sussex, he stumbled and fell forward. Then a great cry arose from his men; for they said, "This is an evil sign: as our leader hath fallen, so will our cause fail."

2. But William, with his ready wit, turned his mishap to good account. "See!" he called out, as he rose with his hands full of English soil,—“see, I have taken a grip of this land with both my hands!” And his followers laughed, and were in good spirits once more.

3. Then William marched against Harold, who had taken post with his army on the Hill of Senlac,¹ a few miles from Hastings.

4. There a great battle was fought for the crown of England. It lasted from morning till evening. The Normans began the attack, having at their head a gaily-dressed minstrel, who flourished on high² a glittering sword and sang songs of victory.

5. First one English knight, then another, rode forth to do battle with the minstrel, but both were slain. Then a third English knight swept down on him, and laid him in the dust.

6. Now the English fought bravely, and they could not by any means be driven from their ground. So Duke William said to one of his captains, "Do you and your men attack the English, and then turn and pretend to flee; and when the English follow you in hot haste, we will fall on them and cut them down."

7. The captain did so, and the English followed them. Then William and his men surrounded the English and cut them off from the main body, and they had them at their mercy. Twice the Normans played the same trick, and twice they succeeded.

8. But still a great body of Englishmen fought bravely around their king; and the sun was going down, and the hearts of the Normans were failing.

9. Then William rode up to his archers and said, "Shoot high, good men, so that your arrows may fall on the faces of the English, behind their tall shields."

10. And the Norman archers shot upward, and an arrow pierced the forehead of King Harold, above his right eye. Then the king groaned and fell; and when his followers saw that their king was killed, they broke and fled, and the Normans were masters of the hard-won field.

11. *The leaves were falling in October when*

Harold was slain, and on Christmas day William the Conqueror was crowned in Westminster Abbey.³ Thus the Old English Kings came to an end, and a Norman wore the crown of England.

Pev'en-sey	fol'low-ers	glit'ter-ing	fail'ing
stum'bled	laughed	brave'ly	shields
for'ward	bat'tle	cap'tains	fore'head
mis-hap'	gai'ly	sur-round'ed	Coñ'quer-or
ac-count'	flour'ished	suc-ceed'ed	West'min-ster

¹ **Hill of Sen'lac.** The battle is generally called the Battle of Hastings. On the spot where Harold fell, William afterwards built an abbey, and called it Battle Abbey. The town of Battle by- and by rose around it.

² **Flourished on high,** waved aloft.
³ **Westminster Abbey.** In London, close to the Houses of Parliament. The abbey was first built by Edward the Confessor; but the present building was begun by King Henry III.

13. A FATAL ARROW.

[After the death of the Conqueror, his eldest son, Duke Robert, ruled Normandy; and his second son, William, ruled England as William the Second. This king is generally called Rufus, or the Red, from the colour of his hair and his ruddy skin.]

1. It was a bright morning in July. William the Red King¹ had invited a number of his chosen friends to form a hunting-party at his castle of Malwood Keep,² on the borders of the New Forest.³ The party was astir soon after daybreak, and all were in high spirits except the king.

2. He had been awakened in the night by a bad dream, and he had slept very little after-

wards. But he drank a great deal of wine at breakfast ; and he was as merry as the others when they set out for the forest.

3. As they were starting, an arrow-maker brought him a bundle of new arrows. He bought the whole, and he gave a few of them to his friend Sir Walter Tyrrel,⁴ saying at the same time, " Good marksmen should have good weapons."

4. Before they had gone far, they met a monk of Gloucester Abbey, bearing a letter from the abbot⁵ to the king. The king could not himself read the letter,—very few persons could read in those days,—so he asked the monk to read it to him.

5. The abbot said that one of his monks had seen in a vision a woman praying the Saviour to have pity on the people who were groaning under the yoke of William the Red.

6. Now the king knew that his subjects disliked him. He knew that they hated most of all the New Forest, in making which his father and he had destroyed many houses and churches.

7. His eldest brother had got his death-wound there. His nephew, Richard, had been killed there. The country folks told strange tales of shrieks that rang out from the dark *glades* of the forest at night.

8. But Rufus heeded not these stories ; and when the abbot's letter was read to him, he laughed loudly, and said, "Do they take me for an Englishman?" (he was really a Frenchman, you know), "or do they think to frighten me with their dreams and their visions?"

9. Then he said to the monk, "Go on to the Keep, and ask my servants to give you some dinner ; and as for your friend the dreamer, tell him to quaff a cup of good ale at supper-time, and he will have better dreams."

10. Then the king rode through the forest, chatting merrily with Tyrrel, while the rest of the party were scattered hither and thither. In the afternoon the king and Tyrrel had an exciting chase after a stag. At last the two hunters were separated, and the stag passed between them.

11. A large oak tree partly hid the animal from the king, so he shouted to his friend, "Shoot, Walter Tyrrel, shoot." Tyrrel shot his arrow at that instant ; but it struck the oak tree, and, glancing off, stuck quivering in the breast of the king

12. William never spoke again. He fell from his horse, dead. Whether Tyrrel meant to kill the king or not is not known. As soon as he saw what he had done, he rode off to the sea-coast and took ship to France.

in-vīt'ed	break'fast	ab'bot	de-destroyed'
chōs'en	for'est	vis'ion	neph'ew
cas'tle	bun'dle	Sāv'our	shrieks
Mal'wood	Tyr'rel	groan'ing	fright'en
a-wāk'ened	weap'ons	māk'ing	sep'a-rāt-ed

¹ **The Red King**,—that is, Ru'fus. *Rufus* is the Latin word for "red."

² **Keep**, old name for a castle.

³ **The New Forest**, a royal forest in the south-west of Hampshire, in the south of England. It is very large,

measuring 50 miles round about. To this day it is a great place for hunting deer and other wild animals.

⁴ **Tyrrel**. Pronounce Tīr'el.

⁵ **Abbot**, the head of an abbey or monastery.

14. THE WHITE SHIP.

[The next king was Henry I., the younger brother of Rufus. As he was able to read and to write, he was called Henry the Scholar. When he had reigned twenty years, a great grief fell on him in the loss of his only son.]

1. King Henry had been in Normandy with William his son, and was about to start for England, when a sailor went to him and asked to be allowed to steer his ship across the Channel.¹

2. "My father," said this Norman sailor, "had the good fortune to steer your father, the Conqueror, when he went to seize the English throne. Grant me the favour, I pray you, of allowing me to do you the same service."²

3. "My plans are all made," answered the king, "and I am just about to sail. But there is my son, Prince William; he, I doubt not, will gladly put himself under your care." So *the king sailed away to England, leaving*

Prince William to follow him in the *White Ship*, as the Norman pilot's ship was called.

4. Now there remained with William some of his gay young friends, and they sat down to feast and to drink wine, saying that the *White Ship*, with its fifty Norman rowers, would easily overtake the king before he reached England.

5. The sailors, too, feasted and made merry; and at nightfall they left the shore of France and began to row toward England. But, with all their rowing, they could not row fast enough for Prince William and his friends.

6. "Row faster, my good men," shouted the prince, "row faster, and show the lazy English sailors how well Normans can row." And the men stretched to their oars, dark though the night was, and rowed with all their might.

7. Suddenly there was a loud crash! The ship was stopped, every one in it was thrown forward, and there was great disorder. It had struck on a rock. Its timbers³ were broken, and the water was rushing in!

8. Very soon the *White Ship* began to fill and to sink. There was one small boat attached to the ship, into which the captain put Prince William and some of his friends. They had just got away from the wreck, when William heard the cry of his half-sister.

9. "Put back and save her," cried the prince; "I dare not face my father without Adela." So they put back; but at once a



number of the Norman sailors seized on the boat, and tried to get into it. The boat was *upset*, and all were drowned but one man,

a butcher, who clung to the mast till the morning.

10. For three days Henry waited for news of his son. He thought his ship might have been carried⁴ to some distant English port. When at last the truth was told him he fainted; and it is said that "he never smiled again."

sail'-or	for'-tune	prince	night'-fall	wreck
al'-lowed'	seize	leav'-ing	dis-or'-der	A-de'la
a-cross'	fa'-vour	pi'-lot	tim'-bers	butch'-er
Chan'-nel	ser'-vice	feast'-ed	at-tached'	faint'-ed

¹ The Chan'-nel, the English Channel, between France and England.

² Do you the same service, steer your ship also.

³ Its timbers, the wooden frame of the ship.

⁴ Might have been carried, driven by the wind or by currents.

15. THE PAGE'S GLOVES.

[Henry I. was succeeded by Stephen, Stephen by Henry II., and Henry II. by his son Richard, who was so brave that he was called "The Lion Heart." He spent the first three years of his reign on a crusade in the Holy Land, where he fought very bravely and gained great victories.]

1. On his way home from Palestine, Richard was shipwrecked on the shore of the Gulf of Venice,¹ and he made up his mind to travel on foot across Europe. To escape notice—for he had many enemies—Richard dressed himself very plainly, and called himself Hugh the Merchant.

2. By-and-by, he came to a village near
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Vienna,² where dwelt his greatest enemy, the Duke of Austria. Richard went into a cottage to rest, while he sent his page to buy some food in the market of Vienna.

3. The richness of the page's dress made the people stare at him; but what they chiefly noticed was that he had hanging from his belt a pair of finely-braided gloves.

4. Now in those days only rich men wore gloves, and only men of high rank wore such gloves as the page had. The people therefore asked who he was, and whence he had come; but as he did not please them with his answers, he was taken before the duke.

5. As he still refused to tell who he was, the duke ordered him to be whipped. But this had no effect. "You may make me weep with your scourging," said the brave boy, "but you shall not make me tell you my secrets."

6. But when they bound the boy with cords, for the purpose, as they said, of cutting out his tongue, his courage failed, and he told all—that Richard was his master, and that the king was at that moment in a cottage not far off.

7. The duke at once set out for the village with a body of knights well armed. They surrounded the cottage, and called on Richard to

give himself up. But Richard drew his sword and said that he would yield himself only to a man of noble birth.

8. Then the duke stepped forward, and Richard found that he had fallen into the hands of his old enemy and rival on the fields of Palestine.

9. The duke sold Richard to the Emperor of Germany for a large sum; and the emperor shut him up in a strong castle among the mountains of the Tyrol.³

10. By-and-by the English found out where their king was shut up. It is said that Richard's harper wandered over Germany, singing Richard's favourite songs under castle walls. At last he came to the castle in which Richard was, and when he had sung the first verse of a song, he heard the king's voice singing the second verse from a window near him.

11. Most people now think that this pretty story is not true. But there is no doubt that the English found out their king's prison by some means; and they raised a large sum of money for his ransom.⁴

12. After he was set free, Richard could not stay at home. He spent the rest of his life in little wars in France, in one of which he was killed.

Pal'es-tine	en'e-mies	rich'-ness	Ger'-ma-ny
Rich'ard	mer'chant	or'dered	moun'tains
Ven'ice	Vi-en'na	scourg'ing	Tyr'ol
Eu-rope	Aus'tri-a	se'crets	fa'-vour-ite
e-scape'	mar'ket	cour'age	ran'som

¹ **Gulf of Venice**, at the head of the Adriatic Sea, between Italy and Austria. It is a mountainous country like Switzerland, which is next to it.

² **Vienna**, the chief city of Austria.

³ **The Tyrol**, the western part of Austria. It is a mountainous country like Switzerland, which is next to it.

⁴ **For his ransom**, to pay for letting Richard out of prison; to buy his freedom.

16. CROWNED WITH A BRACELET.

[After Richard, John reigned seventeen years. When he owned the Pope as his master, his barons were very angry, and made war on him. They forced him to sign the Great Charter, which secured priceless liberties to the people. They then offered the crown to a French prince, but during the struggle King John died.]

1. John left two little sons, the elder of whom, Henry, was only nine years of age. Many of the barons thought that it would be much better to have an English prince as king, than to give the crown to a French prince of whom they knew little.

2. It was therefore agreed that Henry should be crowned; and as soon as this was known, some of the barons who had joined the French prince left him, and went over to the side of the young king.

3. But, on the crowning day, it was found that there was no crown for the archbishop¹ *to put on the young king's head!*

4. Shortly before he died, King John had lost all the crown jewels when trying to cross the Wash.² The tide had risen suddenly, and it was all that John and his followers could do to escape with their lives.



CROWNED WITH A BRACELET.

5. A crown, however, had to be found. So Queen Isabella, the mother of the young prince, pulled off a large gold bracelet she wore on her arm, and handing it to the arch-

bishop, said, "Here, my lord; this will serve for crowning so small a head. Let him have a crown made for himself when he grows older."

6. So the archbishop took the queen's bracelet, and laid it on the head of the boy. He then declared him to be King Henry the Third, and called on all faithful Englishmen to do him homage.³

7. By-and-by many more of the barons who had joined the French prince joined the young king. Then the French prince was defeated in a battle, and went back to France.

8. The reign thus begun lasted fifty-six years. Only one⁴ English sovereign has reigned longer than Henry the Third. But, like his father, Henry was a weak king, and he had many troubles in his reign.

9. He, too, went to war with his barons; and he was defeated and taken prisoner by them. Then the barons joined with them members of Parliament from towns, and thus the House of Commons began.

bar- <u>ons</u>	jew- <u>els</u>	de- <u>clared</u> '	sov- <u>er-eign</u>
a- <u>greed</u> '	queen	faith- <u>ful</u>	reigned
crown- <u>ing</u>	Is-a-bel- <u>la</u>	hom- <u>age</u>	Par- <u>li-a-ment</u>
arch-bish- <u>op</u>	brace- <u>let</u>	de-feat- <u>ed</u>	Com- <u>mons</u>

¹ **Archbishop**, chief bishop. The crown is generally placed on the head of a new king or queen by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

² **The Wash**, an inlet of the sea between Norfolk and Lincoln

³ **To do him homage**, to own him as their over-lord; to swear fealty to him.

⁴ **Only one** — namely, George III., the grandfather of Queen Victoria. He reigned sixty years.

17. THE FIRST PRINCE OF WALES.

[Edward I. succeeded his father Henry III. His great wish was to reign over the whole island of Great Britain. He began with the conquest of Wales. Soon after he came to the throne, he called on the Welsh prince Llewelyn, "the Lord of Snowdon," to do homage to him. For two years the prince put off and put off, and never came. Then Edward marched into North Wales with a large army.]

1. Edward's Welsh war lasted seven years. The Welsh fought bravely, and when they could no longer hold out in the open field, they withdrew to the mountains.

2. There the English were afraid to follow them ; but they cut off their supplies of food, and at last Llewelyn was forced to give himself up, and to own Edward as his lord.

3. Now Llewelyn had a brother called David, who had been on the side of the English, and had been made an English earl. Four years after Llewelyn's defeat, David deserted from the English,¹ and began the war again.

4. Llewelyn also joined in the war, and was defeated and slain in a small battle on the banks of the Wye.² A few months later, David was betrayed into the hands of the English, and was put to death.

5. There was now no one to lead the Welsh, so the English conquered Wales, and they divided it into shires like England.

6. Edward and his queen went to the strong castle of Caernarvon³ in North Wales, to re-

ceive the homage of the Welsh chiefs. Having called them together in the hall of the castle, the king said: "My good friends, I promise you a prince, a Welshman by birth, and one who cannot speak a word of English."



THE FIRST PRINCE OF WALES.

7. The chiefs, completely taken by surprise, promised to be faithful to this prince. The king then went out, and called one of the *queen's ladies*. She came in, bearing in her

arms the king's infant son Edward, who had been born in Caernarvon Castle a few days before.

8. "Here," Edward said, "is your new prince, born on Welsh soil, and reared by a Welsh nurse."

9. The chiefs laughed at the king's joke; but they were also proud that the king's son was to take his title from their country. Ever since that day, Wales has been a part of England, and the eldest son of the King or the Queen of England has been called "Prince of Wales."

with-drew'	broth'er	con'-quered	chiefs	reared
sup-plies'	de-sert'-ed	Caer-nar'-von	sur-prise'	nurse
Lle-wel'-yn	be-trayed'	re-ceive'	in'-fant	eld'-est

¹ Deserted from the English, of Wales, and falling into the mouth of left the side of the English, and became their foe. the Severn.

² The Wye, a river in the west of England, flowing from the mountains

³ Caernarvon, on the east shore of Menai Strait. The castle was built by Edward I.

18. THE PRINCE OF WALES'S FEATHERS.

1. In the olden time, a knight was known on the battle-field by some mark on his helmet, shield, and banner. As the knights were covered with armour from head to foot, so that their faces were hidden, it would not have been easy to know one from another without some kind of mark.

2. Each man, therefore, chose something by which he became known—the figure of a lion, an eagle, a rose, or some other animal or flower; and he often wrote under it the words which he used as his motto—such as, *Aye Ready, For King and Country*.



3. Every one knows the bunch of ostrich feathers—three large feathers tied together—which forms the badge of the Prince of Wales. This first became the badge of the Princes of Wales, more than five hundred years ago, on a battle-field in France. Let me tell you the story.

4. Near the forest of Crécy, a small town in the north of France, King Edward the Third, with a body of English soldiers, was fighting an army led by the King of France. Edward claimed the crown of France while holding that of England, and this was the cause of war between the two countries.

5. Edward had with him his son, who was called the Black Prince, some say from the colour of his armour, and others from his dark skin. King Edward wished to leave the leadership in the battle to this son, then

a brave young knight of only sixteen years. The king watched the battle from the top of a windmill¹ on a hill overlooking the field.

6. In the midst of the battle, when the prince was hard pressed² by the enemy, a knight rode to the king to ask for help. "Is my son dead, or is he wounded?" asked the king.—"Neither," said the knight; "but he is in great straits."³—"Then," replied the king, "let the boy win his spurs;⁴ and let the day be his." The knight returned with the king's message, and fought by the prince's side till the battle was won.

7. In the French army there was the old King of Bohemia.⁵ He was both old and blind, and yet he was very eager to join in the fight! When it was fairly begun, he said to his knights, "Take me, I pray you, so far forward that I may strike one stroke with my sword."

8. His knights did as he told them. Two of them tied the reins of his bridle to their horses, one on each side; and so they rushed on the foe. The old king struck out wildly with his sword, and killed several of the English; but he and his knights were slain. After the battle, the bodies of the knights were found beside that of the old king, and their horses tied to each other.

9. Near the king's body there lay his banner, on which was the picture of three ostrich



THE BLACK PRINCE FINDING THE BANNER.

feathers, with the motto, "I serve," in German words.⁶ As the Black Prince walked over *the field of battle* with his father, he came to

the spot where the body of the blind king had lain. Bending down and picking up the soiled banner, the prince pointed out the motto to his father.

10. "My son," said the king, "let this badge and motto be your own, in memory of the victory which you have won this day."

11. "I shall wear the motto," the prince answered, "to remind me that I serve my king and my country."

12. This is the story of the great fight at Crecy and the Prince of Wales's feathers.

hel'-met	os'-trich	lead'-er-ship	bri'-dle	soiled
ar'-mour	feath'-ers	mes'-sage	sev'-er-al	mem'-o-ry
fig'-ure	Crec'y	Bo-he'-mi-a	ban'-ner	vic'-to-ry
mot'-to	col'-our	reins	Ger'-man	re-mind'

¹ A windmill, a mill kept in motion by the wind.

² Was hard pressed, was in great distress.

³ Was in great straits, was in trouble.

⁴ Win his spurs, gain his first battle; show himself fit to be a knight.

⁵ Bohemia, a country in Germany, now part of Austria.

⁶ In German words, *Ich Dien* (pronounce *deen*).

19. WAT TYLER'S RISING.

[The Black Prince died before his father; so, when Edward III. died, Richard, the son of the Black Prince, got the crown as Richard II. He was only eleven years of age when he came to the throne. Early in his reign there was a great rising of the peasantry. Labourers complained that they were forced to work for very low wages, and that they could not go from one place to another to seek work. Then, to pay the cost of a French war, a poll-tax—a tax of so much a head—was levied, which required every poor man to pay the same as the rich.]

1. Wat Tyler (that is, Walter the Tiler) quarrelled with the taxman that called for his

tax, and killed him with a blow of his hammer. The bystanders shouted for joy when they saw the deed. They said that it was time to get rid of their tyrants, and to claim their freedom.

2. In great fury the peasants flew to arms. All the people round about joined in the rising. Quickly the flame spread; and before the rulers knew of the danger, the disorder had covered all the south and east of England.

3. Wat Tyler was joined in the leadership of the mob by men who took feigned names¹ to mark their low origin—such as Jack Straw, Bob Carter, and John Miller. Everywhere they insulted the gentry; and they showed their strong hatred of lawyers by cutting off the heads of as many as they could seize.

4. The rebels, to the number of one hundred thousand men, met on Blackheath,² under Tyler and Straw, and then marched to London. Within the city they did a great deal of damage.

5. One body attacked and burned the houses of the nobles. Another body broke into the Tower and murdered the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Royal Treasurer, and other persons of rank.

6. Passing through Smithfield,³ the king, *attended by some of his friends*, met Wat

Tyler at the head of a large body of rebels, and began to talk with him. Tyler told his people to fall back till he should make a sign, after which they were to seize the king and kill all his attendants.

7. While talking with the king, Tyler behaved with great rudeness. Walworth, the Lord Mayor,⁴ unable to bear his rude tongue, struck him to the ground with his sword. Others of the king's party drew their daggers and killed him outright.

8. When the rebels saw their leader fall, they made a rush toward the king's company. Thereupon Richard rode forward alone to meet the angry mob.

9. "What means this tumult, my good people?" said the king. "Are you angry because you have lost your leader? I am your king. I will be your leader!"

10. Pleased with his fair words, the people at once fell back. He then called on them to follow him; and he led them out of the city into the fields, and then sent them away with promises that all their wrongs would be righted.

quar-relled	feigned	Black-heath'	Smith'-field
by-stand-ers	in-sult'-ed	dam'-age	Wal'-worth
ty'-rants	law'-yers	at-tacked'	dag'-gers
peas'-ants	reb'-els	Can'-ter-bur-y	com'-pa-ny
dis-or'-der	thou'-sand	treas'-ur-er	tu'-mult

¹ **Feigned names**, names that did not truly belong to them.

² **Blackheath**, a common near Greenwich, and south-east of London.

³ **Smithfield**, in the east of London.

⁴ **The Lord Mayor**, the chief magistrate of the city of London.

20. SIR RICHARD WHITTINGTON.

[Richard II. displeased his subjects, and he was driven from the throne by Henry of Lancaster, who took the title of Henry IV. After him came Henry V., who gained a great victory over the French, and who was all but King of France.]

1. About the time of which we are now reading, there might have been seen one day, on the road to London, a little boy with a bundle slung over his shoulder. He reached a place within sight of London, and there he sat down on a large stone by the road side.

2. The boy did not seem quite happy. He looked sometimes the one way, sometimes the other. At last he said aloud: "Yes, I had better go back: London is no place for a boy like me. I was a fool to leave the quiet village where every one knew me and every one would have been kind to me. Yes, I shall go back."

3. At once he sprang to his feet, and was about to start for his old home, when he was stopped by a chime of bells, and again sat down. "What do these bells say?" he asked himself; and he listened and listened. At length he smiled, for he thought the chiming

took the form of these words: "Turn again, Whittington, Lord Mayor of London."

4. The boy's name was Richard Whittington, and the bells seemed to be calling him to London. "Why," he said to himself,—“why should not a poor boy rise even to be Lord Mayor?” And as he sat there and thought, the chimes again rang out the call, "Turn again, Whittington, Lord Mayor of London."

5. And he *did* turn, then and there. He took up his stick and his bundle and walked on to London. There, after much weary wandering, he saw a mercer's shop¹ that took his fancy. He walked in and told his story; and the good mercer was so pleased with Dick's bright face and his honest eyes that he agreed to give him a trial.

6. Dick stood the trial well, and became the mercer's apprentice. After a few years, his master favoured his friendship for his daughter Alice, and Dick became the mercer's son-in-law.² When a few more years had passed, the mercer felt himself growing old, and he made Richard Whittington a partner in the business.

7. Whittington was now one of the richest men in London, and was honoured by all men for his uprightness and skill. At length the time came when the citizens of London had to

look out for a new Lord Mayor. "If we could have Richard Whittington for Mayor," said one of them, "we should be sure of having an honest man."

8. "That's a good idea," said another merchant; "there's no dealer in London whom I would trust sooner than Whittington." And all the merchants thought the same: so Richard Whittington became Lord Mayor of London before he was forty years of age, and the promise of the bells was made good.

9. Whittington was Lord Mayor of London not once only, but three times; and King Henry the Fifth made him a knight.³ He took much pride in the city of London, and he used a large part of his riches in adding to its public buildings. He owed much of his wealth to the successful voyages made by his ship called *The Cat*; and from this the well-known nursery tale of "Dick Whittington and his Cat" has arisen.

shoul'der	bun'dle	daugh'ter	mer'chant
qui'et	mer'cer	bus'iness	wealth
lis'tened	hon'est	hon'oured	suc'cess'ful
chīm'ing	ap-pren'tice	up'right-ness	voy'ag-es
Whit'ting-ton	friend'ship	cit'i-zens	nurs'er-y

¹ A mercer's shop.—A mercer is one who deals in silks and woollen goods. The word means literally a merchant.

² Became the mercer's son-in-law, married the mercer's daughter.

³ Made him a knight, gave him the title of "Sir."

21. QUEEN MARGARET AND THE ROBBER.

[A terrible war raged in England during the reigns of Henry VI. and Edward IV. Henry VI. belonged to the House of Lancaster; but the House of York thought that they had a better right to the throne. The war was called the War of the Roses, because those who followed the House of York took a white rose as their badge, and those who followed the House of Lancaster took a red rose for theirs. After several battles had been fought Henry's cause failed, and the young Duke of York became king as Edward IV. But Margaret, Henry's queen, was resolved to get back the throne for her husband and her son Edward.]

1. There was more fighting after Edward the Fourth came to the throne. Queen Margaret twice raised an army, and twice she was defeated. Then she had to flee for her life, taking her son and a few friends with her. The old king, Henry, fled for safety to the hills of Cumberland.

2. Margaret had with her a number of jewels, and costly vessels of gold and silver. She hoped to sell these, and with the money to raise another army. But her little band fell into the hands of robbers, who took from her all the precious things¹ she had.

3. She and Prince Edward once more escaped. They had no clothing but that which they wore, and no means of getting food. In the heart of a dense wood they met another robber, who asked them for their jewels and their money.

4. "In truth," said the poor queen, "I have

neither jewels nor money ; and my son and I are faint for lack of food." Then, taking her boy by the hand, she said to the robber, " Here, my good friend ; this boy is the son of your



QUEEN MARGARET AND THE ROBBER.

lawful king : save him now, and he will one day repay you."

5. Touched with pity, the rough fellow took *her and her boy* to his cottage in the forest.

There his wife set food before them and waited on them, while he went in search of the queen's friends. In a short time he found some of them and took them to the queen, and Margaret and her son once more set out on their wanderings.

6. This prince never became king. His end was very dreadful. A few years later Margaret made another effort to win back the crown. Prince Edward, then a young man of eighteen, joined his mother's army; but it was beaten, and the prince was taken prisoner.

7. After the battle, Prince Edward was taken before King Edward in his tent. "How dared you," said the latter, "take arms against your king?" The prince replied boldly, "I did it to get back my father's crown—one day to be my own!"

8. "That it never shall be!" said the king in great anger; and he struck the prince on the face with his mailed hand.² Then the king's brothers fell on Prince Edward with their daggers, and stabbed him till he died.

Mar-gar-et	ves'sels	rough	dread'ful
de-feat'ed	prö'cious	fel'low	ef'fort
Cum'ber-land	e-scaped'	sep'a-rät-ed	eight'een
jew'els	touched	wan'der-ings	pris'on-er

¹ Precious things, costly things—namely, jewels and vessels of gold and silver.

² His mailed hand, a hand covered with a glove the back of which is made of steel plates.

22. THE LITTLE PRINCES IN THE TOWER.

[When Edward IV. died he left two little sons, Edward aged twelve, and Richard aged nine. The elder is called Edward V., but he was never crowned. His uncle Richard, Duke of Gloucester, was made Protector, and he wished to be King. He had the two little princes sent to the Tower, for their safety as he said. He then spread a report that Edward was not the rightful king, and he took the crown for himself as Richard III.]

1. In a room in the Tower of London,¹ two little princes lay quietly sleeping. In the gray morning, before they awoke, a hand might



THE PRINCES ASLEEP.

have been seen drawing aside the curtain of their bed. It was the hand of a murderer, and the little princes were the sons of King Edward the Fourth.

2. *Their cruel uncle, the Duke of Gloucester,*²

had locked them up there, and had taken the crown for himself as Richard the Third. He did not feel safe so long as they lived, so he sent a trusty servant to the governor of the Tower with a letter ordering him to put the princes to death.

3. As the governor refused to do this wicked deed, Richard sent another man to take his place. This was Sir James Tyrrel, a man in whose daring and cruelty the king could trust.

4. Bad as he was, Tyrrel could not bring himself to do the wicked deed with his own hand. So he hired two villains, and sent them at break of day to the room in which the princes lay asleep. Vile as the men were, the sight of the gentle and innocent boys sleeping quietly on their pillow almost melted them; but when they thought of the money they had been promised, they became hardened again.

5. They piled the bed-clothes over the mouths of the boys, and smothered them with the pillows, pressing them down with all their might. At first the cries of the boys could be heard; but they were soon stifled, and the little princes were dead.

6. When all was over, Tyrrel came to see the bodies, so that he might be able to tell the king that the deed had been done. He

touched them. They were still warm ; but he felt sure the boys were dead.

7. The two murderers then stripped the bodies naked, and at the foot of the stone stair which led to their room they dug a deep hole, flung them into it, and piled over them a great heap of stones and earth.

8. The room in which this dreadful crime was committed is a small one over a broad arched gateway, and is lighted by a little, grated window. In memory of the cruel deed, the building has ever since been known as the "Bloody Tower."

cur'tain or'der-ing in'no-cent sti'fled gate-way
mur-der-er cru'el-ty hard'ened stripped win'dow
gov'er-nor v.'lains smoth'ered com-mit'ted mem'c-ry

¹ The Tower of London, a castle on the north bank of the Thames. For a long time it was used as a prison.

² Gloucester. Pronounce *Glos'ter*. The duke was the younger brother of King Edward the Fourth.

23. LADY BESSIE'S LETTER.

[Richard III. had no heir. His only son died young, and his wife died soon after their son. He formed a scheme for marrying his niece Elizabeth, elder sister of the princes murdered in the Tower. This princess, who was heiress of York, is the Lady Bessie of the following story. Henry Tudor, Earl of Richmond, was heir of the House of Lancaster through his mother, Lady Margaret. After the death of Henry's father, Lady Margaret had married Lord Stanley, who is also referred to in the story.]

1. When Lady Bessie heard that her wicked *uncle Richard* meant to marry her, she was

filled with horror. In great trouble she sent for Lord Stanley, who was a friend of the House of York, and she had a secret meeting with him in a room in her house.

2. She told him that she would do anything rather than marry King Richard—the man who had put to death so many of her dearest friends. She then asked Lord Stanley to send for his step-son¹ Henry Tudor, Earl of Richmond, who was in France, and to ask him to claim the throne.

3. Lord Stanley said, “Your plan is good, Lady Bessie, and I am willing to send for Richmond; but in truth I am but a poor writer, and care not to trust to any one else.”

4. “Do not let that trouble you, my lord,” said Lady Bessie; “I shall write the letter for you. Come to my room at eight o’clock this evening, and we shall write not only to Richmond, but also to some of his English friends.”

5. Stanley went at the time named, and the letters were written. In the letter to Richmond, Lady Bessie promised that if he drove Richard from the throne he might claim her as his wife, and thus would the Red Rose and the White Rose be united. She also sent a ring to Richmond in proof of her good faith.

6. Stanley sent the letter and the ring to Richmond by the hands of his trusty squire.

Richmond kissed the ring when he had read the letter ; and after taking some time to think over the matter, he made up his mind to try his fortune.²

7. He landed at Milford Haven,³ in Wales. His father had been a Welsh gentleman, and the Welsh people received him with open arms and warm hearts. His friends gathered around him in great numbers, and he marched boldly into England. Every day the number of his followers increased.

8. Richard went forth to meet him. Near Market Bosworth⁴ a severe battle was fought, in which Richard was slain and his army was beaten. The crown which Richard had worn was found in a hawthorn bush on the field. Stanley put it on Richmond's head as he rested after the battle, and called out, "Long life and happiness to King Henry the Seventh!"

9. When Henry had been about a year on the throne he made Lady Bessie his queen ; and thus the Houses of York and Lancaster became one House. At the marriage every one wore a red and a white rose tied together.

troub'le	prom'ised	gen'tle-man	haw'thorn
Stan'ley	u-nit'ed	re-ceived'	hap'pi-ness
se'cret	squire	in-creased'	Lan'cas-ter
Rich'mond	for'tune	Bos'worth	mar'riage
writ'er	Mil'ford	se-vere'	to-geth'er

¹ His step-son, the son of Lord Stanley's wife, Lady Margaret, by her first marriage.

² To try his fortune, to take his chance of success.

³ Milford Haven, an inlet in the south-west of Wales.

⁴ Market Bosworth, in Leicestershire, in the middle of England, 12 miles west of Leicester.

24. THE PRINCE AND THE BIBLE

[Henry VII. was followed by his son Henry VIII. In his reign the Pope ceased to be the head of the Church in England, and the King took his place. Henry VIII. died, leaving three children—Mary, Elizabeth, and Edward. All three wore the crown, one after another. Edward came first, and he was called Edward VI. He was only nine years old when his father died.]

1. One day several little boys were playing together in one of the rooms of a large house, called Hatfield House,¹ about twenty miles from London. They were tossing a ball from one to another, and they ran about and romped and laughed with great glee.

2. All at once their fun was stopped. The ball alighted on the top of a chest or cabinet that stood in a corner of the room. It was not a very high chest; but the boys were very small, and could not reach to the top of it.

3. One of them said, "Stop a minute, and I'll fetch something to stand on." He went to a shelf, and brought from it a big book, and laid it down beside the chest. He was just going to step on it, when another little boy stopped him, lifted up the book, and said, "This is the Bible: we must not use God's

book for standing on ;” and he carried it back to its place quietly and with a grave face.

4. This boy was Prince Edward, the son of King Henry the Eighth. He did honour to the outside of God’s Book, because he had been taught to read it and to love it, though he was only seven years old.

5. About two years afterwards his father died, and he became King Edward the Sixth. He was so good and pious a young king that he was called the English Josiah, after Josiah the good king of Judah, about whom we read in the Bible.

6. When he grew older he became a great student. He was weak in body, and he spent much time in reading. He also wrote an account of all that happened in his time.

7. This book, called his “Diary,”² is carefully kept in the British Museum. He also founded a number of grammar schools, which are called King Edward the Sixth’s Grammar Schools to this day.

8. One day he heard the good Bishop Ridley³ preach a sermon on the duty of being kind to the poor. After the service the king sent for the bishop and asked him how he might best carry out what the sermon had taught. Ridley spoke with his friends in London, and by their advice the king granted lands

to support a number of hospitals for the fatherless and the sick.

9. Edward died at the age of sixteen. He signed the papers granting the lands to the hospitals only a few days before his death. He was then heard to say, "I thank God that he has let me live long enough to finish this good work, to the glory of his name."

Hat-field	af-ter-wards	stu-dent	Rid-ley
a-light-ed	pi-ous	hap-pened	ser-vice
cab-i-net	Jo-si-ah	di-a-ry	hos-pi-tals
min-ute	Ju-dah	gram-mar	signed

¹ **Hatfield House**, in Hertfordshire, north of London. Both Edward VI. and his sister Elizabeth were living there when they were called to the throne.

² **Di-a-ry**, a book for writing down the events of every day.

³ **Bishop Ridley**. In the reign of Queen Mary he was burned at the stake at Oxford.

25. DRAKE'S VOYAGE ROUND THE WORLD.

[Elizabeth became queen on the death of her sister Mary. In her reign the Protestant religion was set up in England.]

1. The first Englishman who sailed round the world was Francis Drake. He did not intend anything so great when he set out. All that he meant was, to do as much harm as he could to the Spaniards¹ in the southern seas, and to plunder them as much as possible.

2. When Drake set out from England he had five ships under his command; but before

he sailed from the Atlantic into the Pacific Ocean his ship had lost sight of the others, and he had no ship but that in which he himself sailed.

3. With this ship he attacked the Spanish ships wherever he found them, and most of all ships that were going back to Spain laden with gold and silver. When he had filled his ship with treasure, he bethought him of returning to England.

4. He was afraid to go back by the way by which he had come, as he knew that many Spanish ships would be on the watch for him.

5. The only other thing that he could do (as you may see on the map of the world) was to cross the Pacific, and to reach the Atlantic by going round the Cape of Good Hope. He made up his mind to try this, though he was not sure that he would succeed.

6. He sailed first to the East Indies,² and landed on some of the islands there. He then crossed the Indian Ocean, doubled the Cape of Good Hope,³ and returned to England, after a voyage which had lasted nearly three years.

7. If you look at the map again, you will see that he had sailed round the globe. When *he went*, he sailed round the south of South

America; when he returned, he sailed round the south of Africa.

8. There was great joy in England on his



THE KNIGHTING OF DRAKE.

return; and still greater when it was known that he had done something that had never

been done by an Englishman before, and that had then been done by very few others.

9. The Spaniards complained to Queen Elizabeth of the harm Drake had done them, and wished her to punish him; but Elizabeth would not do anything of the kind. She said that she would stand by her brave sailor.

10. The queen was so proud of what had been done, that she sailed down the Thames to Deptford,⁴ and took dinner with Drake on board of the ship that had sailed round the world.

11. After dinner she took a sword, and made Drake kneel before her on the deck of the ship. Touching him with the sword, she said, "Rise, Sir Francis!" and the brave sailor rose and stood before his queen as Sir Francis Drake. She also ordered his ship to be preserved, in memory of his daring and of his country's glory.

in-tend'	pos'si-ble	re-turn'ing	E-liz'a-beth
Span'iards	com-mand'	suc-ceed'	Dept'ford
south'ern	treas'ure	doub'led	pre-served'
plun'der	be-thought'	com-plained'	mem'o-ry

¹ The Spaniards, the people of Spain.

² East Indies, a number of islands in the south-east of Asia.

³ Doubled the Cape of Good Hope,

sailed round the Cape. The Cape of Good Hope is in the south of Africa.

⁴ Deptford. Pronounce *Det'ford*. This place is between Greenwich and London.

26. SIR PHILIP SIDNEY AND THE SOLDIER.

[When the Dutch fought for their liberty against Philip, King of Spain, Elizabeth sent an army to help them, under her favourite the Earl of Leicester. With Leicester there went his nephew Sir Philip Sidney.]

1. Sir Philip Sidney was called by Queen Elizabeth "The jewel of my realm." She meant that she thought him the bravest and the noblest of the men at her court.

2. He was very learned, very wise, very polished in manners, and very generous.¹ Even as a child he was grave and thoughtful; and while his teachers found him a quick scholar, they were able to learn something from him.

3. When he grew up to be a young man, he chose as his friends, not young men like himself, but men who were old enough to have been his father. These men—some of them great statesmen²—thought Sidney wise beyond his years, and often took his advice on very weighty matters.

4. Sidney was very glad indeed when the queen ordered him to go to Holland. He had long wished her to send an army there to fight against the Spaniards, and now at length he had his wish fulfilled.

5. The English army laid siege to a town³ which was held by the Spaniards. Their plan

was to watch that no food was sent into the place, and thus to starve the people into yielding.

6. One evening they got news that a large supply of food had been gathered at a place a few miles off, and that the enemy meant to try to get it into the town at break of day next morning.

7. Sidney rode off with a body of horse to prevent this. There was a sharp fight. The enemy numbered more than was expected, and they had cannon with them. Sidney was struck in the thigh with a cannon-ball, and was severely wounded.

8. As he was being carried from the field, faint and in great pain, he asked for water to moisten his parched lips. A bottle of water was brought to him. As he raised it to his lips, he saw a wounded soldier casting wistful eyes⁴ at the bottle. Without tasting the water, Sir Philip passed the bottle to the soldier, saying, "Thy need is yet greater than mine."

9. Sidney lingered for five and twenty days, and then died of his wound. Among his last words were these to his brother: "Love my memory, cherish my friends; their faith to me may show you that they are honest: but above all, govern your will by the will and the Word of God."

Sid'-ney	schol'-ar	Hol'-land	pre-vent'	moist'-en
pol'-ished	states'-men	ful-filled'	ex-pect'-ed	sol'-dier
gen'-er-ous	ad-vice'	siege	can'-non	wist'-ful
thought'-ful	weight'-y	yield'-ing	se-vere'-ly	lin'-gered

¹ Very generous, thoughtful of and kind to others; not selfish.

² Great statesmen, men who hold high offices in the State, and help to rule the country.

³ A town held by the Spaniards. It was called Zut'phen.

⁴ Wistful eyes, eyes that showed that the man longed for a drink of water.

27. THE GREAT ARMADA.

1. One summer evening, a number of sailors and soldiers—men of high rank—might have been seen playing a game of bowls on a level green above Plymouth.¹ Among them were Lord Howard, the admiral² of the English fleet; and Sir Francis Drake, his second in command. From the green, they could see a long way out to sea.

2. They knew that Philip, King of Spain, had sent a great fleet to attack England, because he was much displeased with Queen Elizabeth. The English fleet was waiting in Plymouth harbour until the enemy should come in sight.

3. While the game of bowls was going on, a ship came into the harbour, and its captain hurried up to the green and told Howard that he had seen the Spanish fleet that morning.

4. Some of the captains were for going on

board their ships at once; but Drake said no. "We have plenty of time," he said, "to finish our game and to beat the Spaniards too."

5. But the fleet sailed out of Plymouth harbour that night, and next day it came within sight of the Spaniards. Their fleet, called by them "The Great Armada," formed a half-moon of great wooden castles stretched along the sea, and measuring seven miles from point to point!

6. The Armada sailed up the English Channel toward the Strait of Dover, and the English fleet followed it. Drake took first one and then another of the largest of the Spanish ships. All the way up the Channel the English ships, which were small and easily turned about, did much harm to the clumsy Spanish hulks.

7. The Armada anchored off Calais, the admiral meaning to wait there till he was joined by the commander of the land forces.

8. One dark night a few daring Englishmen took eight old hulks filled with pitch and resin³ and other things that burned long and fiercely, and towed them⁴ toward the Spanish fleet. When they were quite near to the big ships they set fire to the eight hulks, and left them to drift before the wind into the midst of the Spanish fleet!

9. The Spaniards were seized with wild

panic. Some weighed their anchors,⁵ others cut their cables,⁶ and all tried to get away from the fire-ships. In their haste to save themselves, their ships ran against one another, and some of them were sunk.

10. When morning came, the English saw that the Spanish ships were scattered hither and thither. They destroyed or captured as many of them as were within reach.

11. The rest sailed away northward, and many of them were wrecked on the shores of Scotland and Ireland. Only a few of them ever returned to Spain.

sum-mer	Phil-ip	meas-ur-ing	com-mand'er
lev-el	har-bour	Chan-nel	res-in
Plym-outh	cap-tain	Strait	pan-ic
How-ard	hur-ried	añ-chored	de-stroyed'
ad-mi-ral	Ar-ma-da	Cal-ais	cap-tured

¹ Plymouth, a seaport on the south coast of Devonshire.

² Admiral, the commander-in-chief of a fleet.

³ Pitch and resin Pitch is made by boiling down tar. Resin is juice that oozes from trees. It burns easily.

⁴ Towed them, pulled them with ropes.

⁵ Weighed their anchors, pulled them up.

⁶ Cut their cables, cut the ropes that held their anchors, so as to be able to escape quickly.

28. THE QUEEN'S RING.

1. Queen Elizabeth was one day talking with one of her courtiers¹ about affairs of State. When she refused to take his advice, he lost

his temper, and turned his back to her. The queen also grew angry, and gave him a box on the ear, calling him an impertinent fellow for treating his queen so rudely.

2. The courtier was the Earl of Essex, one of Elizabeth's chief favourites in her later years. Only a short time before this, he had come back from Spain, where he had done many brave deeds.

3. The queen had been so much pleased with the story of his valour that she had given him a ring, and had told him that if he were ever in any trouble and sent the ring to her she would send him help.

4. The time came when Essex had need to use the ring. He was a great favourite with the people of London, and he even thought that they would like him to be king. With the help of a few friends he tried to raise a rebellion in the City. He entirely failed, and was tried and sentenced to death.

5. The queen was very sorry for her favourite, and if he had asked for mercy she would readily have granted it. She daily and hourly looked for him to send the ring; but the ring never came. The queen thought him proud and stubborn, and she became the same.

6. At times her heart softened toward him; *but when he made no sign of repenting, it*

hardened again. First she signed the paper ordering him to be put to death; then she recalled it; then she signed it again, and the earl was beheaded within the Tower. He was only thirty-four years of age. The queen was sixty-eight.

7. The loss of her favourite gave the queen a great shock. Indeed it began the illness of which she died. A short time after Essex's death the queen was sent for by the Countess of Nottingham, then on her deathbed.

8. Elizabeth went. The countess told her, with faint voice, that Essex had asked her to carry the ring to the queen, but that her husband,² who hated Essex, had not allowed her to do so.

9. Then Elizabeth's rage knew no bounds. She seized the dying countess by the arm and shook her till she gasped for breath. She called the poor lady a cheat, and a murderess, and other hard names; and she ended by saying, in a shrill voice, "God may forgive you; but I never will."

court'iers	fa'vour-ites	doubt-less	six-ty-eight
ad-vice'	re-bell'ion	stub-born	count-ess
im-per-ti-nent	en-tire-ly	soft-ened	Not-ting-ham
Es-sex	sen-tenced	re-pent-ing	mur-der-ess

¹ Courtiers, persons who go about a royal court.

² Her husband. The Earl of Not-

tingham was formerly Lord Howard, the English admiral who defeated the great Spanish fleet called the Armada.

29. THE GUNPOWDER PLOT.

[Queen Elizabeth died about two years after the Earl of Essex, in the seventieth year of her age. She was succeeded by James, King of Scotland, who then became James I. of England. Since his time England and Scotland have always had the same king or queen. The event is called the Union of the Crowns.]

1. There were many people in England who did not wish the King of Scots to reign over them. Plots began to be formed against him almost as soon as he came to the throne.

2. The most wicked of these plots aimed at blowing up with gunpowder the king, the nobles, and all the chief men in the country, when they were gathered in the House of Lords to open Parliament.

3. There were only eight men in England who knew the secret of this plot. Their leader was a daring villain named Guy Fawkes.

4. Beneath the House of Lords there were cellars, one of which was let to a dealer in coals. The plotters found out that this man wished to go to another place, so they hired the cellar, and pretended to carry on the same trade—dealing in coals and firewood.

5. In a house which they had hired on the opposite side of the river Thames, they had stored a number of small casks filled with *gunpowder*. These casks they carried across the

river, one at a time, hidden under bundles of sticks and among logs of wood.

6. In this way as many as thirty-six barrels of gunpowder were placed in the cellar. All was now ready, and the Fifth of November—the day on which Parliament was to be opened—was fixed as the day for doing the terrible deed.

7. Before that day came, a tall man in a cloak knocked one night at the door of the house of one of the lords, handed in a letter, and went quickly away.

8. The letter told the lord that if he valued his life he was on no account to go to the opening of Parliament, because it would be struck with a terrible blow by hidden hands.

9. When this letter was laid before the King's Council, the king guessed that gunpowder was meant. The night before the day on which Parliament was to be opened, soldiers were secretly sent to search the cellars under the House of Lords. There they caught Fawkes, whom they at once bound with ropes and carried before the king.

10. The barrels of gunpowder were then found, and were taken away, and thus a dreadful crime was prevented. All who had taken part in the plot were put to death.

11. You may learn from this story why the Fifth of November is called "Guy Fawkes's

Day," and why on that day boys still play with fireworks and dress up a "guy" and throw it into a bonfire.

12. Ever since that time, the vaults or cellars under the House of Lords have been searched on the eve of the opening of Parliament.

gun'-pow-der	plot'-ters	bar'-rels	o'-pen-ing
vil'-lain	pre-tend'-ed	No-vem'-ber	guessed
Guy	op'-po-site	ter'-ri-ble	dread'-ful
Fawkes	Thames	val'-ued	pre-vent'-ed
cel'-lars	bun'-dles	ac-count'	vaults

30. THE PILGRIM FATHERS.¹

1. Across the Atlantic Ocean there is a great country called the United States of America. The people of the United States speak English. Their forefathers were Englishmen. This story will tell you how Englishmen came to found a great nation across the seas.

2. Two or three hundred years ago every man in England was not allowed to worship God in the way he liked, and no churches were allowed but those set up by law.

3. There were many in England who did not like this; and some of them made up their minds to go to some other country, where they would be allowed to do as they chose.

4. *First* they went to Holland;² but they

did not like the change. They could not live there by themselves ; and they saw that their children and those who came after them would cease to be Englishmen and would become Dutchmen.



THE PILGRIMS LEAVING ENGLAND.

5. They then resolved to go to America, and to settle themselves on new soil. In the reign of James the First, a company of one hundred souls—men, women, and children—

sailed from Plymouth, in the south of England, on board a ship called the *Mayflower*.

6. The voyage was long and stormy, but they reached the other side of the ocean with the loss of only one life. Much time was spent in looking for a good place on which to land and settle down.

7. The men who did this work passed through many dangers. Sometimes their crazy little boat^s was nearly wrecked. Sometimes a shower of arrows from the Indians warned them that their right to the land might be denied.

8. At last the Pilgrims found a resting-place. They fixed on a safe harbour in what they called Plymouth Bay—after the port in England whence they had sailed, and where they had got much kindness.

9. It was just two days before Christmas when they landed, stepping ashore on a huge rock, which is still carefully kept, and is called “The Pilgrim Rock,” in memory of that day.

10. For a long time they suffered greatly. The coast was bleak. It was the middle of winter, and the cold was greater than they had been used to at home. They had but little food, and what they had was not wholesome. Sickness broke out and carried off many of the worn-out Pilgrims.

11. *Still the little company laboured on at*

their heavy task. They made peace with the Indians. They cleared land in the forest, and grew food for themselves. They were joined by other friends from England.

12. Months passed, and years passed, and the little colony grew and prospered. The New England across the ocean was a place of safety to which all who were unhappy at home might flee. Thus the Pilgrims who went forth in search of freedom became the fathers of the great nation that now covers America from ocean to ocean.

A-mer-i-ca	chil-dren	voy-age	Christ-mas	com-pa-ny
al-lowed'	Dutch-men	set-tle	care-ful-ly	col-o-ny
wor-ship	re-solved'	crāz-y	suf-fered	pros-pered
Hol-land	May-flow-er	pil-grims	whole-some	na-tion

¹ **The Pilgrim Fathers.** They are called "Fathers" because they were the founders of a nation; and "Pilgrims" because they wandered in search of their new home.

² **Holland,** a country north of Bel-

gium. The name means *hollow-land*. The land there lies so low that dykes are built to keep out the sea. The people of Holland are called the Dutch.

³ **Crazy little boat.** A boat is called *crazy* when it is weak and unsafe.

31. ROYAL OAK DAY.

[In the reign of James I. there began a great quarrel between the King and the Parliament. This quarrel was carried on by James's son Charles I. As neither King nor Parliament would give way, they went to war. After four years of fierce fighting, the King was beaten. He was then tried for making war on his people, and was put to death.]

1. All school-boys and school-girls know of the custom of wearing a sprig of oak in the hat

on the 29th of May ; but they do not all know why this is done. I shall tell you in this story.

2. After the death of Charles the First, the Scots wished to make Prince Charles, his son, king in his stead. The prince was then twenty-one years old. He went to Scotland, and was crowned.

3. He then marched into England with a Scottish army. This army was beaten by Oliver Cromwell,¹ the chief of the Parliament men, and young Charles fled from the field with a few friends.

4. When he had ridden about twenty miles from the field, he stopped at the house of a friendly farmer, and changed his dress. He put off his soldier dress and put on a leathern waistcoat, a threadbare and soiled green jacket, and an old gray hat.

5. In this guise² he went out with a wood-cutter to a wood close by, where he spent the whole of the next day in heavy rain.

6. After a time, he met an old friend, one of his officers, who gave him shelter in a barn. But it was not safe for him to stay there; when it was known that Cromwell's soldiers were scouring the country.³

7. *The officer took Charles back to the*

wood, and climbed up with him into an oak tree thick with leaves. In the fork made by two branches, a cushion was placed for Charles to sit on. He was very tired, and sometimes he laid his head on his friend's knee to snatch a little sleep.

8. As they sat in the oak tree, a party of Cromwell's soldiers passed quite near to them. They saw the red coats of the men through the branches; and they heard them saying what they would do if they caught "that rogue Charles Stuart!"

9. But the "rogue" and his friend kept quite still; and the leaves were so close that the soldiers could not have seen them, even if they had looked their way.

10. By-and-by the soldiers left the place, to search in other districts, and Charles went back to the barn. Charles saw that it would not be safe for him to stay in England at that time, so he tried to reach the coast. He ran many risks; but at last he found a friendly ship on the coast of Sussex, in which he sailed to France.

11. When Charles returned to England as king, nine years later, he entered London on his birthday,—the 29th of May. Every one then wore a sprig of oak, in memory of the kindly shelter of the oak tree. The custom of

wearing oak leaves on that day has been continued in England ever since.

cus'tom	Ol'i-ver	jack-et	cûsh-ion
wear-ing	Crom'-well	guise	dis'tricts
twen'ty	leath-ern	scour-ing	Sus'-sex
Scot'-tish	waist-coat	climbed	con-tin-ued

¹ **Oliver Cromwell.** After King Charles the First was put to death, Oliver Cromwell ruled England as head of the Commonwealth.

² **In this guise,** dressed in this way.

³ **Scouring the country,** passing quickly over the country, and searching every hole and corner of it.

32. THE GREAT PLAGUE.

[A few years after Charles II. came to the throne, there fell on London a great plague. It began in Eastern lands, and travelled over Europe. The largest cities suffered most; and in London it carried off 100,000 persons within the year. When the plague was at its height, the deaths were 10,000 a week, or more than 1,400 a day.]

1. "Bring out your dead! Bring out your dead!" That was the dreadful call that sounded through the streets of London every night in the time of the Great Plague.

2. Along every street in which the plague was known to be, a "dead-cart"¹ passed at night. Beside it there walked men bearing flaming torches; and the driver rang a bell, and called aloud, "Bring out your dead."

3. Men became suddenly sick in the streets, and fell down as if they had been shot. Women were seized in the same way, as they *went about* their household work. It took

hold of children at their play. No one who was seized with the dreadful disease was expected to recover. Death followed in a few hours.

4. The Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs² of



A STREET IN LONDON DURING THE PLAGUE.

London sent out an order that every house should be shut up in which there was a case of the plague. No one was allowed to go out or in. This was done to prevent the plague from spreading.

5. A red cross was painted on the door of every such house. The door was made fast on the outside, and a watchman was set to see that no one went either out or in.

6. This watchman also brought the food that was needed by those in the house, and carried messages between them and their friends.

7. The streets in the stricken parts³ of the city were deserted and silent. The grass was seen growing in the streets that had formerly been the most crowded. All who were able to do so, left London. Shops were closed, business was at a stand-still.

8. Dreadful scenes were sometimes witnessed. Fathers followed the dead-carts which contained the remains of their families, and moaned with grief and pity when they saw how rudely they were thrown into the grave and put out of sight.

9. Even more dreadful was the case of those who sought to drown their fears in drinking and rioting, and who thereby only hastened their own end.

10. When the frost of winter set in, the deaths became fewer and fewer; but the plague lurked in the dark lanes and filthy courts of old London, till it was swept away by the *Great Fire* of the following year, which de-

stroyed four hundred streets and thirteen thousand houses.

plague	dread'ful	mes'sag-es	bus'iness
flām'ing	dis-ease'	strick-en	wit'nessed
torch-es	ex-pect-ed	de-sert-ed	con-tained'
sud-den-ly	pre-vent'	si'lent	fam'i-lies
house'hold	watch'man	for'mer-ly	hās'tened

¹ **The dead-cart.** Carts went round the streets of the city every evening to gather the bodies of those who had died during the day.

chief officer of a *shire*. The sheriffs of London are magistrates whose duty it is to keep the peace.

² **Sheriffs.** A sheriff is properly the

³ **The stricken parts,** the districts in which the plague was raging.

33. BREAKING THE BOOM.

[When Charles II. died, he was succeeded by his brother James II. After reigning a few years he was driven from the throne, and his nephew, William of Orange, was called to take his place, along with his wife Mary, who was James's daughter. There was a rising in Ireland in favour of James, and he went there and took command of the troops. He marched towards Londonderry, in the north of Ireland; but the people of that town resolved to hold the place for King William. Then began the famous siege of Londonderry.]

1. The man who took the lead in urging the people of Londonderry¹ to hold out against James was a clergyman named George Walker.² The governor refused to agree to the plan, and ran away. Then Walker and an officer called Baker were made governors, and laid their plans for defending the town.

2. Everything was against them. They had no regular soldiers in the place. Their supply of firearms was short, and the townspeople

were not used to military drill. They had very few pieces of cannon; the few they had were in bad order, and they had scarcely any man who knew how to serve them. Of horse soldiers they had scarcely any. What was worst of all, they were short of provisions.

3. In spite of all this, they made a heroic defence. The attacks made on the town by James's soldiers were driven back again and again. Several times the townspeople rushed out on their enemies and fought with great bravery, killing many, and taking some prisoners.

4. As the siege went on, however, the townspeople were hard pressed for want of food. Ships from England, laden with food, soldiers, and powder and shot, had come to the mouth of the river on which the town stands; but the enemy had placed cannon on both banks, and had also blocked the channel with a boom, or barrier of fir logs and iron chains, to prevent them from sailing up.

5. The sufferings of the townsfolk were all the harder to bear, when they saw the friendly ships so near and yet unable to reach them. When the ordinary food was finished, they fed on the flesh of horses, dogs, cats, rats, and mice, on tallow, starch, and salted hides; and even *these things* began to fail. Disease broke out

in the town, and hundreds died. Still the people called out from the walls, "No surrender!"³

6. Six weeks had passed since the English fleet, laden with all the things that the people of Londonderry needed most, had arrived in the river, and the town was at its last gasp. Just then orders came to the fleet that Londonderry was to be relieved at once.

7. One of the ships—the *Mountjoy*—laden with provisions of all kinds, had for its captain a Londonderry man. His heart was wrung with pity for his townsmen, and he offered to sail against the boom. Another ship, laden with Scotch meal, was to follow his; and both were to be under cover of a frigate⁴ or ship of war.

8. The sun had just set; the people had just left the cathedral, where they had met to ask God's help, when a watchman on one of its towers saw three ships in full sail coming up the river. The hopes of the people were raised to the highest pitch when this became known; but hopes gave place to fears when they saw the enemy active and watchful for miles along both shores.

9. The three vessels came boldly up the channel, in spite of the fire from the enemy's guns. Then the *Mountjoy* took the lead, and

went straight at the boom. The huge barrier at once gave way; but the *Mountjoy* was driven back by the shock, and stuck in the mud.

10. The Irish yelled with joy, and rushed to their boats, meaning to board the stranded ship; but the fire from the frigate kept them back. Meantime the other provision ship dashed at the breach which the *Mountjoy* had made, and was soon within the fence.

11. Presently the rising tide floated the *Mountjoy* again, and she also passed safely through the breach. But her brave captain was no more. A shot from one of the enemy's guns struck him, soon after the boom was broken; and he died within sight of his native town, which he had bravely helped to save from a terrible fate.

12. It was ten o'clock at night when the ships arrived at the quay. And what a scene was there! All the people of the town were gathered to see the unloading of the ships. What cheers, what thankful prayers, what joyful sobs were heard as the sailors rolled on shore barrels of Scotch meal, casks of beef, kegs of butter, sacks of pease and biscuit, huge cheeses, and flitches of bacon!

13. The enemy saw that further fighting *was useless*. Three days later they withdrew,

leaving a line of smoking ruins to mark the site of their camp.

urg-ing	reg-u-lar	en'e-mies	ar-rived'
Lon-don-der-ry	mil'i-ta-ry	pris'on-ers	re-lieved'
cler-gy-man	can'non	chan'nel	Mount-joy'
Walk'er	scarce-ly	suf-fer-ings	ca-the-dral
de-fend-ing	pro-vi'sions	or-di-na-ry	watch-man
gov'er-nor	he-ro'ic	dis-ease'	bar-ri-er
re-fused'	de-fence'	sur-ren-der	un-load-ing

¹ **Londonderry**, a town on the river Foyle, in the north of Ireland.

² **George Walker**. He afterwards went with King William during his Irish war, and he was killed, a year later, at the Battle of the Boyne. There is now a statue of Walker set up on

the wall of Londonderry, in memory of his bravery.

³ **No surrender**, they would not give up the town to the enemy.

⁴ **Frigate**, a quick-sailing ship of war, with only one gun-deck, and carrying thirty or forty guns.

34. THE ROSE AND THE THISTLE.

[William and Mary left no children. When William died, Mary's sister Anne came to the throne, and reigned twelve years. There was a great deal of fighting in Anne's reign. The Duke of Marlborough gained four splendid victories over the French. The chief event of the reign, however, was the union of the English and Scottish Parliaments.]

1. For one hundred years England and Scotland had been under the same kings and queens; but each country had its own Parliament. The English Parliament sat in London, and the Scottish Parliament sat in Edinburgh.

2. Though the English Rose and the Scottish Thistle had been tied together so long, they were often not very friendly with each

other. In Queen Anne's reign, it seemed as if the two countries would come to blows again, as in the olden times.

3. The Scots complained that they were not allowed to trade freely either with England or with France. Sometimes Scottish ships were seized in English waters, and sometimes the Scots took revenge by seizing English ships in Scottish ports.

4. Once, while an English ship was in a harbour near Edinburgh, some of the crew boasted that their ship had seized a Scottish ship in the East Indies, and had murdered the captain and all the crew. The case was tried at Edinburgh, and the English captain and two of his sailors were hanged. When they heard of this, the English people were furious.

5. Queen Anne having left no children, the English Parliament had resolved that the crown should pass to a prince of the House of Hanover.² They tried to force the Scottish Parliament to promise to take the same king. But the Scots refused to promise any such thing, and passed an Act saying that their next king should be of the royal line of Scotland, and different from the king that ruled in England.

6. *Then the English Parliament threatened*

to make war on Scotland. They advised the queen to put Newcastle and Carlisle in a state of defence,⁸ and to fill the northern counties with soldiers.

7. These things filled the wise men of both countries with alarm and sorrow. They saw that there never would be peace and goodwill between the two countries while the Parliaments remained apart; and they advised that England and Scotland should be ruled as one kingdom,—under the same Parliament as well as by the same King.

8. The English Parliament was easily got to pass a Bill for the Union, but the Scots opposed it keenly and bitterly. At last the Scottish Parliament also passed the Bill; the votes of many of the members, it is said, having been bought with English gold.

9. Scotland sent members to the English Parliament, and the Scottish Parliament was done away with. The two kingdoms were united under the name of Great Britain, and were made exactly equal in regard to trade. But Scotland was allowed to keep her Law Courts and her Church.

10. Thus at length were the Rose and the Thistle made one, never more to be put asunder. The Union has been a great blessing to both countries. It took place in the

year 1707, near the middle of the reign of Queen Anne.

Ed'in-burgh	fu'ri-ous	New'cas-tle	sor'row
com-plained'	Han'o-ver	Car-lisle'	ūn'ion
re-venge'	dif'fer-ent	count'ies	bit'ter-ly
boast'ed	threat'ened	de-fence'	a-sun'der
In'dies	ad-vised'	a-larm'	mid'dle

¹ **The Rose and the Thistle.** The Rose is the emblem of England, and the Thistle of Scotland.

First of England, whose daughter Elizabeth had married a German prince.

² **House of Hanover.** The rulers of the House of Hanover, in Germany, were descended from King James the

³ **To put in a state of defence,** to make ready for opposing an attack by the Scots.

35. NELSON'S LAST SIGNAL.

[Anne was succeeded by George I., the first king of the House of Hanover. Then came George II. and George III. George III.'s reign is the longest in English history. He reigned sixty years. In his reign there were great wars with France and Spain.]

1. "Thank God, I have done my duty!"
These were the last words of Lord Nelson, the great English admiral. He has been called—

"The greatest sailor since the world began."

Of all his great victories, the greatest was that which he gained off Cape Trafalgar,¹ where he received his death-wound.

2. England was at war with France and Spain, and Admiral Nelson had command of the English fleet. Learning that a fleet of *French and Spanish ships* had sailed out into

the Atlantic from the Strait of Gibraltar,² Nelson followed them to the West Indies.

3. He came back without having seen them; but at last he fell in with them off Cape Trafalgar, in the south of Spain.

4. When he had given the order for the fleet to advance, Nelson sent up to the mast-head of his flag-ship,³ the *Victory*, his famous last signal —“ ENGLAND EXPECTS THAT EVERY MAN THIS DAY WILL DO HIS DUTY.”

5. The signal was greeted with three cheers from every ship. The battle then began. As the *Victory* went in among the enemy's ships, she had to face a furious storm of shot and shell. She became a mark for the enemy, because she was known to be Nelson's ship.

6. The *Victory* did not answer this hot fire with a single gun, till she came alongside of the ship of the French admiral. Then she poured a full broadside⁴ into her enemy, and completely disabled her.

7. The *Victory* next attacked another large French ship. The two ships became locked⁵ together by their anchors. The firing went on fiercely, and both ships were soon in flames.

8. This made the disorder the greater. The fire on board the *Victory* was soon put out; but during the hubbub a number of men armed with muskets had mounted the rigging of the

French ship, and had fired down on the English deck.

9. There Nelson stood, calmly giving his orders. He was easily known by his coat and



hat, and by the gold-lace stars on his breast. Before the battle, his captains had tried to get *him to wear a plainer coat* ; but he had refused.

10. He had not stood there long, when a bullet entered his left shoulder, passed down his back, and lodged in his spine.

11. "They have done for me at last, Hardy," he said to the captain who knelt beside him as he lay on the deck.—"I hope not," said the captain.—"Yes," said Nelson; "my backbone is shot through."

12. He was tenderly carried below by some of his sailors, and about three hours later he died. But before the end he was cheered with the news of a complete victory. "Now I am satisfied," said the hero. "Thank God, I have done my duty!"

vic'-to-ries	greet'-ed	dis-a'-bled	hub'-bub
Tra-fal'-gar	siñ'-gle	añ'-chors	mus'-kets
re-ceived'	a-long'-side	fierce-ly	shoul'-der
Gib-ral'-tar	com-plete-ly	dis-or'-der	sat'-is-fied

¹ Cape Trafalgar, in the south-west of Spain, near the entrance to the Strait of Gibraltar.

² Strait of Gibraltar, between Spain and Africa.

³ His flag-ship, the ship in which he sailed, and which carried his flag as admiral of the fleet.

⁴ Broadside, all the guns on one side of a ship of war fired at one time.

⁵ Anchors became locked together. An anchor is a large iron hook used for holding a ship by sticking into the ground. The anchors became locked together by the hook of the one catching the hook of the other.

36. THE CAPTIVE ON ST. HELENA.

1. Far out in the South Atlantic, twelve hundred miles from the coast of Africa, is the rocky island of St. Helena. When it was the

custom for English steamers to go to India round the Cape of Good Hope, they used to call at St. Helena for coal and other stores which were kept there.

2. Sailors passing the island sixty or seventy years ago, might have seen a solitary figure standing on one of its highest points, and looking wistfully over the sea. That was the great Napoleon Bonaparte, once Emperor of the French, and one of the greatest soldiers the world has ever seen.

3. Bonaparte was sent to St. Helena as a prisoner, by the English Government. That place was chosen because it was hardly possible for any one to escape from it. The island has high and steep cliffs around it on every side. Indeed, there is only one spot at which it is possible for ships to touch.

4. The English wished to put him in a very safe place, because he had so often broken the peace of Europe. From being a humble officer in the French army, he had risen to be Emperor ; and he had carried war into nearly every country that he could reach.

5. He had fought with the Russians, with the Austrians, with the Prussians, and with the English. He had made himself King of Italy, and had put one of his brothers on the throne of *Holland*, and another on the throne of Spain.

6. Suddenly his great power came to an end. He led a vast army into Russia, nearly the whole of which perished, either in battle or on the snowy plains over which the men had to march in winter. About the same time his armies were driven out of Spain by the great English general, the Duke of Wellington.

7. Finding everything against him on his return to Paris, Bonaparte gave up his crown and retired to the island of Elba, in the Mediterranean.

8. In a few months he returned to France. His old generals soon joined him; his old soldiers flocked to his standard; and in a short time he was at the head of a large and splendid army.

9. The English and the Prussians prepared to meet him. The Duke of Wellington was in command. One of the greatest battles in all history was fought at Waterloo, in Belgium; and Bonaparte was completely beaten.

10. After this defeat he saw that his cause was ruined, so he gave himself up to the English. For seventeen years he had been the troubler of Europe; so the English resolved that he should do no more harm in that way. They therefore sent him as a prisoner to the lonely rock of St. Helena.

11. He had a comfortable house in the

middle of the island. A tree under which he was fond of sitting is still shown ; but what he best liked to do was to go to the top of a cliff and gaze out to sea, as if he were looking for



BONAPARTE AT ST. HELENA.

a friendly ship, and thinking of France, and of his former glory.

12. Waterloo was his last battle. Six years *later he died* on St. Helena, and was buried there.

13. Many years afterwards, when there was peace between France and England, his body was taken in a war-ship to France. It was carried to Paris, and was buried there with great pomp.

14. The French people were long proud of the name of Napoleon Bonaparte, but now its power is faded and gone.

St. Hel-e'na	chōs'en	El'ba
sol'i-ta-ry	hum'ble	Med-i-ter-ra'ne-an
wist'ful-ly	of-fi-cer	stand'ard
Na-po'le-on	Russ'ians	splen'did
Bon'a-parte	Aus'tri-ans	Wa-ter-loo'
Em'per-or	Pruss'ians	Bel'gi-um
pris'on-er	per'ished	com-plete'ly
Gov'ern-ment	Wel'ling-ton	com'fort-a-ble

37. THE LAST ENGLISH SLAVES.

[George III. was followed on the throne by two of his sons. First, George IV. reigned ten years, and then William IV. reigned seven years. One of the greatest events in William's reign was the doing away with slavery in the British colonies. The Government paid the slave-owners twenty million pounds, and thus eight hundred thousand slaves became free.]

1. That was a joyful day for the negroes in the West India Islands, when the English Parliament resolved that there should no longer be slaves on any part of British soil.

2. For forty years the struggle between the friends of freedom and the upholders of
(711) 8

slavery had been going on in England ; and at last the brave men who had fought the battle for the negro gained the victory.

3. The slaves did not, as a rule, become their own masters all at once. They were bound to work for a few years as hired servants to their former owners. One of the West India Islands, however,—namely, Antigua,—resolved to set her slaves free at once.

4. The 1st day of August had been fixed by Parliament as the day on which slavery was to cease. The day was Friday ; and in Antigua notice was given that there would be holiday from Thursday evening till Monday morning.

5. We may fancy with what eagerness the negroes would look forward to the stroke of the hour that was to make them free. The clergymen did their duty well. They talked with the slaves, and tried to get them to look on the event as a very solemn one.

6. In this they succeeded;¹ and it was arranged that the people should gather in the chapels, so that their first act as freedmen should be to give thanks to God.

7. When Thursday night came, when the last piece of slave-labour had been finished, great was the joy that filled every negro heart—joy that found vent sometimes in shouting *and singing*, sometimes in tears.

8. They gathered together quietly in their chapels as twelve o'clock drew near. Their pastors advised them to receive the great gift in silence, and on their knees.

9. At the first stroke of midnight from the clock of the cathedral,² all fell on their knees. No word was spoken. Nothing was heard but the slow tolling of the bell that rung the knell of slavery,³ and the stifled sobs of those who felt that they were passing, as it were, from death unto life.

10. The people remained kneeling a few moments after the last stroke of twelve had been heard, each one silently opening his and her heart to God in thanksgiving.

11. Then there burst from the sky a flash of lightning, followed by a rattling peal of thunder, which made the kneeling people at once spring to their feet.

12. They could no longer keep down their strong feelings. Some shouted for joy. Some groaned as the load of a lifetime passed away. Some tossed up their arms to show that they were free.

13. Parents and children, sisters and brothers opened their arms to each other. In some of the chapels the masters were present with their slaves, and when the clock had struck, they shook hands with them and wished them joy.

14. Friday and Saturday were spent in mirth and gladness. Sunday brought the people back to serious thoughts. Their pastors strongly pressed on them the duty of being sober and diligent, and of living on good terms with their masters. To most of them the day was sweet because it was the first Sabbath they had ever called their own.

15. On Monday morning all went to work—work which now seemed noble in their eyes, because it was given by free men to buy the means of living for themselves and their families.

ne'-groes	sol'-emn	kneel'-ing	Mon'-day
strug'-gle	suc'-ceed'-ed	thanks'-giv-ing	Thurs'-day
sla'-ver-y	ar-ranged'	light'-ning	Fri'-day
An-tig'-u-a	freed'-men	thun'-der	Sat'-ur-day
ea'-ger-ness	si'-lence	se'-ri-ous	Sun'-day
cler'-gy-men	ca-the'-dral	dil'-i-gent	Sab'-bath

¹ They succeeded, got their wish; gained their end.

² Cathedral, a large church, belonging to the see or seat of a bishop.

³ Rung the knell of slavery. A knell is the sound of a bell rung at a death or a funeral. Slavery was dying, and the bell sounded its knell.

38. OUR OWN QUEEN.

[William IV. was succeeded by his niece Queen Victoria, whose glorious and useful reign has now lasted forty-five years. Her father was Edward, Duke of Kent, a brother of William IV., who had died when his daughter was only one year old. The Duchess of Kent lived twenty-three years after her daughter came to the throne.]

1. About five o'clock on a bright June morning, forty-five years ago, a coach might

have been seen driving up to the gate of Kensington Palace¹ in London. Four gentlemen got out of the coach. One of them rang the bell, but no one came. Another beat the door with his staff, but there was no answer from within.

2. After a great deal of knocking and shouting, the porter was at last aroused, and the gate was opened. The gentlemen were at once admitted ; for one of them was the Lord Chamberlain,² another was the Archbishop of Canterbury, and another was a marquis. They said that they wished to see the Princess Victoria.

3. They were left standing in the court-yard until the porter had aroused some of the other servants. They were then shown into one of the lower rooms of that part of the palace in which the Duchess of Kent lived ; but they were left there so long that they thought they had been forgotten.

4. They rang the bell, and asked to see the maid of the Princess Victoria. After another long delay, the maid came. She told the gentlemen that they must wait a while ;—that the princess was in such a sweet sleep that she dared not disturb her.

5. Then the Lord Chamberlain said, “ We are come on business of State with Queen

Victoria, and even sleep must give way to that." Then the maid understood it all. King William had died during the night, and her young mistress was Queen of England.

6. She no longer delayed to call her; and in a few minutes the Princess came into the room, dressed in a loose white dressing-gown and a shawl, her head uncovered and her hair falling on her shoulders. When she was told that her good uncle was dead, and that she was now Queen, her eyes filled with tears.

7. She was, however, quite calm and dignified, and at once spoke of the business which had to be done. A meeting of Privy Council^s was called for eleven o'clock, that she might take the usual oaths, and receive those of the Ministers and other councillors.

8. The Queen presided, or sat in the chief seat, at the council. Though only eighteen years of age, she did her duty with much grace and firmness. One who was present said, "She presided with as much ease as if she had done nothing else all her life."

driv'-ing	a-roused'	prin'-cess	mis'-tress
Ken'-sing-ton	chām'-ber-lain	Vic-to'-ri-a	de-layed'
pal'-ace	arch'-bish-op	for-got'-ten	dig'-ni-fied
gen'-tle-men	Can'-ter-bur-y	dis-turb'	min'-is-ters
knock'-ing	mar'-quis	un-der-stood'	coun'-cil-lors

¹ **Kensington Palace**, an old palace in the west of London, surrounded by fine gardens. William III. bought it from his Lord Chancellor, the Earl of Nottingham. There William III., Mary II., Queen Anne, and George II. died; and there Queen Victoria was born.

² **Lord Chamberlain**, one of the chief officers of the Crown. He has

charge of all State ceremonies, such as coronations, royal marriages, and levées or receptions at court.

³ **Privy Council**, the chief council of the sovereign. Its members are chosen by the king or the queen, and it contains all the Ministers who form the Cabinet or the Government of the day.

39. THE QUEEN'S HIGHLAND HOME.

1. Queen Victoria is very fond of Balmoral Castle,¹ her Highland home. Every summer she spends several months there, living in a very simple and homely way, and taking great delight in the Highland hills and the fresh breezes.

2. The Castle was built many years ago by her husband, Albert the Good, who is now dead. While he was alive, the Queen and Prince Albert sometimes made trips as a plain lady and gentleman, not letting it be known who they were.

3. Once, they made one of these trips into a part of the country where few strangers went. They stayed at a country inn, like common travellers, and they enjoyed the fun very much. Boys and girls sometimes play at being kings and queens. Why should not a queen and a prince play at being common persons?

4. The secret was well kept till they were leaving the village. Then some one noticed

the royal arms² on the carriage. The news soon spread that the Queen was in the village, and there was great cheering as they drove along the road.



THE QUEEN IN A HIGHLAND COTTAGE.

5. The good landlady³ was vexed that she had not known. She blushed when she thought of the homely food she had given her guests. "To think," she said, "that I had the Queen *in my house*, and did not know her!" But

that was the very thing that the Queen wished.

6. Since Prince Albert's death the Queen has gone to Balmoral, as usual, every year. She is very kind to the people that live in the cottages near the Castle. She often visits them ; and when they are sick she takes them dainties and things that will give them strength.

7. Once the clergyman went to visit a sick man in one of these cottages. He paused at the door, because he heard the voice of some one reading. He looked in, and there he saw a lady dressed in mourning sitting beside the bed of the sick man.

8. The lady was reading to him from the Bible. As the clergyman entered the room, she looked up. It was the Queen of England!

Bal-mor'al	hus'band	en-joyed'	dain'ties
High'land	Al'bert	car'riage	cler'gy-man
de-light'	strān'gers	cheer'ing	mourn'ing
breez'es	trav-el-lers	guests	en'tered

¹ Balmoral Castle, in Aberdeen-shire, in Scotland. It stands on the Dee, 45 miles west of Aberdeen.

badge or coat of arms—the lion and the unicorn, supporting a crown.

³ Landlady, the mistress of the inn.

40. WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED.

1. This is a book of Stories from the History of England. It is not a History—only

a book of Stories. A History tells everything that has happened in a country, from the earliest times—about all the kings and queens, about the making of laws, about changes in the state of the people, about wars and battles. A book of Stories from History picks out a few of the chief things, and tells all about them.

2. But you will have learned a good deal of history from the Stories, if you have kept in mind what they were about, and the names of the kings, the queens, and the other great people about whom they have told you.

3. One of the things that you have learned is, that history has nothing to tell about the very earliest times of this country. The people were in a wild and rude state. They could not read or write; and they had not much to tell about themselves, even if they had been able to write it down.

4. The people of our country in the earliest times are called *the Early Britons*. You were told about them in the first Story.

5. Then you have seen that *the Romans* came to Britain, and were masters of most of the land for more than four hundred years. These years form *the Roman Times*.

6. The next strangers to come to Britain were *the English*. The Romans came and *went away* again; but the English came and

stayed, and spread over the whole land, and called it England, after themselves.

7. By-and-by *the Danes*, who were like cousins to the English, came to this island. At first they fought with the English, but in the end the two peoples were friendly, and became mixed.

8. *The Normans* came next. They crossed from the north of France and beat the English in a great battle; and the Duke of Normandy became King of England. Most of the land was given to Normans, who spoke French. By-and-by, the Normans were lost among the English people; and the chief part of the nation is English to this day.

9. The Normans ruled on the plan of making every man a soldier, who was bound to serve the king, or some one under the king, as the price of the land he owned. This was called the Feudal plan of governing, and hence the times after the Normans came are called *the Feudal Times*.

10. Much fighting broke up the Feudal plan, and then *the Kings had all the power*, and did very much what they liked.

11. Bit by bit, the power of the Crown was checked by *the power of the House of Commons*—the People's House of Parliament. After a struggle between the Crown and the

Commons, which lasted nearly one hundred years, there was a Revolution.¹ The Kings that wished to do what they pleased were driven from the throne, and Kings that agreed to do the will of Parliament took their place.

12. Since that time the power of Parliament has been growing greater and greater ; and the country has been growing richer, happier, and more peaceful and peace-loving.

13. The chief points to be noted in the History of England are these :—

(1.) *The Times of the Early Britons.*

(2.) *The Roman Times.*

(3.) *The Coming of the English.*

(4.) *The Coming of the Danes.*

(5.) *The Coming of the Normans.*

(6.) *Feudal Times.*

(7.) *Despotic Times.*

(8.) *The Revolution.*

(9.) *Recent Times, when the Kings have ruled with the help of the Parliament.*

his'to-ry	cous'ins	feu'dal	driv'en
hap'pened	peo'ples	Par'li-a-ment	hap'pi-er
ear'li-est	friend'ly	Rev-o-lu'tion	peace'ful
strān'gers	Nor'man-dy	pleased	mean'ing

¹ **Revolution**, an upturning in the government of a country. At the time of the English Revolution, King James the Second was driven from the throne, and William of Orange was called over from Holland to take his place.

CHIEF DATES.

ROMAN TIMES.

B.C. (55 B.C.—410 A.D.)

55. The Coming of the Romans.

OLD ENGLISH TIMES.

A.D. (449 A.D.—1066 A.D.)

449. The Coming of the English.
597. Christianity preached by Augustine.
787. The Coming of the Danes.
871. Alfred the Great began to reign.
1017. Canute the Dane began to reign.

FEUDAL TIMES.

(1066 A.D.—1471 A.D.)

1066. The Coming of the Normans.
1455. War of the Roses began (Feudalism destroyed).

DESPOTIC TIMES.

GREAT POWER OF THE CROWN.

(1471 A.D.—1688 A.D.)

1603. Union of the Crowns of England and Scotland.
1642. War between King and Parliament began.
1649. King Charles I. beheaded.
1660. The Stuart Kings restored.
1688. The Revolution—William III. King.

RECENT TIMES.

GROWING POWER OF THE PARLIAMENT.

(Since 1688 A.D.)

1707. Union of the Parliaments of England and Scotland.
1815. Battle of Waterloo.

ENGLISH SOVEREIGNS SINCE THE NORMAN CONQUEST.

FEUDAL TIMES.

William I.	Henry III.
William II.	Edward I.
Henry I.	Edward II.
Stephen.	Edward III.
Henry II.	Richard II.
Richard I.	Henry IV.
John.	Henry V.
Henry VI.	

DESPOTIC TIMES.

Edward IV.	Elizabeth.
Edward V.	James I.
Richard III.	Charles I.
Henry VII.	[Commonwealth—Oliver
Henry VIII.	and Richard Cromwell.]
Edward VI.	Charles II.
Mary I.	James II.

RECENT TIMES.

William III. and Mary II.	George III.
Anne.	George IV.
George I.	William IV.
George II.	Victoria.

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